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Scientific but not glamorous –  
the work of the BKA

Many people call the "glass box" on the Geisberg in Wiesbaden "the house of a thousand secrets". Others compare the main office of the Federal Republic criminal police with FBI headquarters in America or New Scotland Yard.

They imagine that in this building that is verboten for members of the public there is an army of super-commissioners, with pistols at the ready in shoulder holsters, and that from here world-ranging dragnets for gangsters begin.

Truth is stranger than this fiction. Certainly you have to show your credentials to the gatekeeper before you can enter the Bundeskriminalamt HQ, but the building does not contain 1,000 secrets so much as 1,000 files.

The work of Scotland Yard and the FBI is not identical with that of the BKA. And the sixty-year old President of the BKA, teacher's son Paul Dickopf from the Westerwald, is, like most of his ilk, not in the least like James Bond – he is a criminologist with training in law and the natural sciences, jovial and reminiscent of Gerd Fröbe (James Bond's adversary in *Goldfinger*).

Twenty years ago, in March 1951, the Bundestag passed legislation for the setting up of a "Federal criminal investigation bureau" and set clear aims for the BKA. The most important part of the bureau's work is to collect reports and information for the fight against crime, carry out identification work and develop crime-fighting techniques.

Now the office is twenty years old and celebrated its jubilee with a speech by the Minister of the Interior Hans-Dietrich Genscher and the premiere of the film *Ermittlungen gegen unbekannt* (Proceedings against a person or persons unknown).

The BKA's weapons are a desk, a teleprinter, dossiers, microscopes and complicated technical equipment.

The number of indictable offences in this country has risen to about 2,500,000 a year and in order to fight the criminal there are 740 officials working at the Wiesbaden headquarters. Many of them are doctors, physicists, chemists, bio-

## Dis-concert-ing!

Excuse me, Sir, I'm doing a survey on what people think of concerted action," asked the Wickert Institute (Tübingen) interviewer.

"It's a charity thing, collecting old musical instruments, isn't it?"

"I think it's people who come round asking if you've got old newspapers."

"Concerted action? A concert programme!"

These are some of the things people in this country think Karl Schiller's scheme of economic discussions between both sides of industry might be. Of the 2,011 asked only eleven per cent knew the answer.

Seventy per cent said: "Never heard of it!"

(DIE WELT, 15 March 1971)

logists, toxicologists and ballistics experts.

In order to aid crime prevention and investigation officers in the Federal states and boroughs the Bundeskriminalamt also serves as this country's Interpol headquarters.

One hundred and seven countries of the free West and Yugoslavia are attached to this international police organisation. In 1968 Paul Dickopf, the BKA boss, was elected its President for a four-year term.

The BKA is in round-the-clock radio touch with forty Interpol nations. By this means 115,000 pieces of information were exchanged in the international police cooperation scheme last year.

In order to give the "detectives in white coats" a better chance in the never-ending battle against the ne'er-do-well the Bundestag has increased its grant for their work. Instead of the original budget of 25 million Marks the BKA received about forty million in 1970. This year it will be granted 54.2 million Marks and in 1972 there are plans to grant the BKA 74.3 million Marks.

"We've got no cards up our sleeve," say the leading officials of the Bundeskriminalamt. Nevertheless they have got an electron microscope that enlarges objects 160,000-fold. They have a vacuum plant for the study of burnt materials, infra-red equipment, X-ray fluorescent methods for determining the range at which a bullet was fired and other sophisticated equipment.

One interesting factor is the collection of 2,000 different types of pistol for comparative purposes.

Less exciting, but much more important in the tracking down of the ordinary criminal, however, are the files and dossiers in which details and misdeeds of lawbreakers from this country and abroad are registered.

Albert Bechtold

(Köln Stadt-Anzeiger, 18 March 1971)

## Red-hot pants

Girls and young women in the G.D.R. Democratic Republic have been swinging to hot pants. But the East women's magazine *Für Dich* is cold on them.

Presenting the new fashion readers for the first time, the magazine commented, "a woman's head is place for problems, not her bottom".

According to the director of the Democratic Republic Fashion Institute Wolfgang Fröbel, fashions should break away from Western ideas and more and more alternatives to the capitalists have to offer.

The *Freie Deutsche Jugend* (FDJ) "Forum" included a report by Wolfgang Fröbel in which he said GDR television for showing people who were always dressed in fashions and thus setting a bad example.

He said that it was necessary to re-orient information and communication system on the question of fashions. get an agreement from all involved how to educate the young in the modern taste.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 17 March)

## P.S. I love you

Helmut Schmidt, the Defence Minister, is the most popular man with the ladies. Sacks full of letters for him asking for an autograph are nothing short of passionate letters.

When a reporter from a magazine married couples" recently asked Defence Minister for more details of his fan mail Helmut Schmidt refused to divulge anything since the letter intimate and it would be unfair to women who wrote them.

(WELT DER ARBEIT, 19 March)

## The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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Brezhnev sounds a cautious  
note at Party congress

It is something new for the Soviet press to publish a speech by First Secretary Brezhnev with amendments to what he was actually heard to say by millions of people on radio and TV.

This was the case with Leonid Brezhnev's closing speech at the twenty-fourth congress of the Soviet Communist Party. The amendment concerned the order in which the Party leader listed the names of members of the politbureau.

Brezhnev's words indicated that certain members, among them Podgorny and Kirilenko, have gained in favour while others, including Shelyepin and Voronov, have fallen from grace. The Soviet press listed them all in strict alphabetical order.

Now Soviet staffers are not in a position to censor the Party leader or his documents. Who, then, is responsible for the amendment?

Unless indications are deceptive it was the politbureau itself, anxious to cover the tracks of the central committee and its First Secretary, tracks that make it clear that the monolithic unity so often referred to in the course of the congress is a mere phrase with little bearing on the true state of affairs.

Even the increase in size of the politbureau by four to fifteen members represents a change in majorities in this highest-ranking Party body.

Bearing in mind the way in which Leonid Brezhnev visibly dominated the Party congress it is hard to credit that the

changes will be entirely to his disadvantage despite the amendment made to his speech.

At the same time there have been few changes in the membership of the new central committee, which elects and dismisses members of the politbureau. In comparison three out of four delegates to the congress were novices.

Should Mr Brezhnev intend to carry out a thorough reshuffle at the top he will have no option but to take time, reflecting gradual changes on the basis of

having to keep pace with changing economic and social conditions.

His personal impatience with officials who fall behind the dynamism of Soviet society noticeably contrasts with his own claim to have restored solidarity and quiet to the Party following Khrushchev's leaps and bounds.

Some indication of Mr Brezhnev's caution is provided by the inclusion in the congress resolution of a passage according to which the Party's cadre policy is to be aimed at both promoting promising youngsters and retaining the services of the tried and trusted.

When all is said and done the congress may have approved the five-year plan, published in the name of the central committee, but it did so under the proviso that further proposals be borne in mind.

Premier Kosygin may, for that matter, have accepted criticism of the administrative machinery but he stood by his principle of economy according to which consumption and expenditure must be accounted for beforehand in terms of savings.

Currents of what might be termed regionalism also made their appearance at the congress. Constituent Soviet republics set greater store by their own economic interests.

The election of regional Party leaders Kulayev and Shcherbitski as members of the politbureau is probably more a reflection of this trend than promotion for the Party leader's henchmen.

So it remains to be seen what the consequences of the triumph Mr Brezhnev would, on the face of it, appear to have achieved at the congress will be on the home front.

The congress resolution largely follows the recommendations made by the First



## Star-studded reception

Willy Brandt is here seen at a Palais Schaumburg reception for show business stars from all over the German-speaking world. In the centre are Danish-Austrian husband and wife team Vivi Bach and Dietmar Schönherr, on the right singer Hildegard Knef, married to David Cameron.

Secretary and places even greater emphasis on the transition that the Soviet economy must undergo in order to increase the well-being of the general public.

It also lends support to the view that scientific methods of planning and control can be applied to all spheres of life and that this can be reconciled with strict regimentation of intellectual and scientific cadres.

Yet there is no rejection of the personality cult or subjectivism and the modes of government of Stalin and Khrushchev so vehemently condemned by Leonid Brezhnev.

Unless, that is, the "struggle against all vestiges of the past in people's consciousness and behaviour" is taken to be a

careful euphemism referring to this phenomenon.

In foreign policy, on the other hand, the Brezhnev course of proceeding on various levels with various means has gained full acceptance.

There is to be ideological consolidation, strengthening of the ties between socialist countries and forward strategy in social and political trouble spots but an opening towards the capitalist world is demanded and the reason stated.

The motive behind this demand is foreign experience in economics, science and technology, which is to be utilised in order to boost Soviet economic efficacy.

The door to the West has been left open a chink.

Josef Riedmiller

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 April 1971)

Nixon postpones final decision on  
Vietnam withdrawal

Courageous and consistent are the epithets used by President Nixon's supporters to describe his eagerly awaited statement on the Vietnam war. Yet many people who had hoped for a more unambiguous sign that the United States is to pull out of the war rate the President's speech a disappointment.

Mr Nixon is retaining his strategy of Vietnamising the war, attempting gradually to withdraw US troops and increasingly handing over the waging of the war to the South Vietnamese.

Republican Nixon hopes in this way to achieve after all the aims that induced his Democratic predecessors Kennedy and Johnson to station more than half a million GIs in Vietnam.

During his two years in office Richard Nixon has neatly halved this figure and a further 100,000 men are to be withdrawn by 1 December next. At the same time there can be no doubt that his figure falls

below the expectations and probably below the hopes originally harboured by the present administration.

Mr Nixon claims that his aim is to pull out all American troops but avoids committing himself to a deadline or period of time during which the 184,000 men who will still be stationed in Vietnam at the end of the year are to be brought home.

The President believes that the facts and the action he has already taken warrant his claim to confidence and support.

Mr Nixon has limited his latest withdrawal programme to 1 December so as to see what the military situation is at the beginning of the next dry season.

This means that the decision more and more Americans are awaiting, the decision as to when the last American is to leave the war theatre, has again been postponed.

Outlining an alternative of this kind sounds almost as though Mr Nixon would like to brand the doves, who number prominent and honourable Republicans among their ranks, as fellow-travellers – an accusation that used to be most effective.

The pacemakers, for their part, are wondering whether any freedom at all exists in Vietnam and whether the United States has not already done more than might have been expected of it.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 April 1971)

Frankfurter Allgemeine  
ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

## One of the world's top ten

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## ■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## No need for haste in Prague talks

Paul Frank, Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, is cagey about the outcome of his first round of talks with Czech Deputy Foreign Minister Kusak. His talks in Prague have again confirmed that the Czech government is not prepared to give a millimetre on its demand that the 1938 Munich Agreement be declared to have been null and void from the word go.

In view of the legal consequences, particularly for Sudeten Germans, Bonn cannot comply. The two men arranged a further round of talks in Bonn, but they will probably not be held until May. The relatively long interval between the two probes would seem to indicate that the Bonn Federal government has no intention of proceeding with the negotiations with Prague in undue haste.

There is, indeed, no reason why it should. It could well even be asked whether it was wise to send Secretary of State Frank to the Czech capital at this present juncture.

As long as the fate of the Moscow and Warsaw treaties remains uncertain in view of failure so far to reach agreement over

Berlin the Federal government ought to avoid burdening itself with the additional problem of laboriously bargaining with Prague over the terms of a compromise on the Munich Agreement.

Progress towards a treaty with Prague ought not to be envisaged until a satisfactory Berlin settlement is in the offing and the Moscow and Warsaw treaties can be ratified.

Waiting and seeing is all the more advisable for a satisfactory outcome to the Four-Power talks on Berlin not yet having loomed on the horizon.

For two reasons the Czech government is nevertheless most interested in entering into treaty negotiations with Bonn as soon as possible.

It is hoping on the one hand for an increase in economic aid from this country in the form of higher credits. The Husak government also harbours hopes that negotiations with the Federal government as a Western country will boost its own mediocre prestige at home.

Talks between Bonn and Prague will, it is hoped, lead to a return to normal in relations between the two countries at a

stage at which the Czech government, in the wake of the 1968 occupation of the country, has yet to re-establish normal relations with its own people.

While Secretary of State Frank was discussing the possibility of a treaty renouncing the use of force with the Czech Deputy Foreign Minister in Prague Premier Gustav Husak effusively thanked fraternal parties at the Moscow congress of the Soviet Communist Party for the Warsaw Pact invasion.

Needless to say, the invasion remains both for Czechoslovakia and in the light of world opinion an act of brutal repression.

These too are aspects that Bonn cannot completely ignore in endeavouring to come to terms with Prague. Herr Frank was right in stressing that "we intend and have to overcome the unpleasant past."

Unfortunately many factors are none too promising at present and they cannot always be ignored entirely.

Werner Neumann  
(Lübecker Nachrichten, 3 April 1971)

## Brandt and Colombo confer in Bonn

Like Bonn the Italian government would consider it historically tragic if Britain's Common Market entry bid were to fail, particularly as Premier Emilio Colombo feels that negotiations have already reached a more binding stage.

So it is that in their Bonn talks Chancellor Willy Brandt and the Italian Premier tried to reach a compromise formula midway between the British and French views on Britain's application.

The Bonn Federal government must be gratified to think that an Italian Christian Democrat expressly considers Bonn's *Ostpolitik* to represent progress towards European integration.

When Willy Brandt last visited Rome Colombo welcomed Bonn's opening to the East as a constructive step towards détente, though he made it clear that *Ostpolitik* would lose all point if the close links between Bonn's policies on détente and European integration were to be severed.

A relaxation of tension based on individual moves, the Italian Premier feels, will not get far. In view of the recent visit to Rome by Egyptian Foreign Minister Riad the situation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East was bound to be an important item on the agenda of the consultations between Italy and this country.

The Federal government will have gained valuable insight into Egypt's point of view from what the Italian Premier had to say.

One point can be made with certainty. The traditional toasts to fruitful and unproblematic political cooperation will have been more than lip service in this instance.

Christian Deysson  
(Kleiner Nachrichten, 2 April 1971)

## Podgorny and Pakistan

Soviet President Podgorny's cable to President Yahya Khan of Pakistan calling on the Islamabad government to end bloodshed in East Pakistan comes as something of a surprise.

The Soviet Union is running the risk of being accused by the military regime in Pakistan of intervening in the domestic affairs of a foreign country. This is a risk Moscow is evidently prepared to take.

Has the Soviet government lost interest in close ties with Pakistan? This hardly seems likely. If only because of China's strong position in the Pakistani capital Moscow must continue to be interested in good relations.

Or was it that the Soviet Union felt able, in view of the cordial nature of relations, to state its views frankly? Whatever the reason may be, it is an astonishing business, not least because Soviet intervention on the Bengalis' behalf has come late in the day and shows how easily international complications can arise once things start moving on the Indian sub-continent.

President Podgorny rightly comments that there can be no military solution to the conflict between the two parts of Pakistan, only a political one.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 5 April 1971)

## No time to lose on Britain's EEC entry bid

## Hannoversche Allgemeine

It is no secret that the English Germans are cousins, as it were, that cousins sometimes get on better than brothers. Anglo-Federal Republic agreement on Britain's EEC entry bid is established fact whereas fraternal friendship between Bonn and Paris on point leaves much to be desired.

At their recent meeting in Bonn's Schaumburg Willy Brandt and Elie Heath were completely agreed on points, that Britain must gain entry to the Common Market as soon as possible and that the French must, for her sake, stop putting obstacles in the way.

This is all well and good but the British membership may still be going. The British Premier had a reason to remind the Chancellor: endless procrastination of the British talks might have the same effect. French veto. The longer the talks drag the less enthusiastic Britain will be about the whole business.

Put diplomatically, Britain's point that Whitehall does not have an unlimited amount of time at its disposal in country is, as proposed, to join the Common Market on 1 January 1973. Parliamentary procedures and all they entail take time.

What really worries Mr Heath's Cabinet, though, is that British opinion, shocked in any case by the Common Market membership seems to cost, may lose all interest if the results are not forthcoming by summer at the latest.

There can be no doubt about the good will and readiness to support Britain's case but it is hard to say whether the Federal government can do so about progress in Brussels.

The Brandt administration may be from its predecessors in many ways but there is absolutely nothing to suggest between them when it comes to the pressure to bear on Paris. Bonn dare not or sees no point in trying.

Tiresome and time-wasting though the process may be, Bonn contents itself with friendly persuasion and patient negotiation.

So far no one would seem to be succeeding in convincing the French that this summer represents a critical juncture by which a decision must be reached.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 6 April 1971)

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## HOME AFFAIRS

## Distinct differences develop as major parties evolve viewpoints

Since the Grand Coalition was dissolved at the last general election polarisation has become a watchword on the domestic politics scene. Polarisation is understood to mean critical opposition with the government and CDU/CSU Opposition, each in its own corner.

It is a basic requirement of the democratic setup. Now it has led to both major political parties in this country taking on a definite shape. But in addition it has meant that the development of politics in the Federal Republic has been unable to go to any extremes. The most recent provincial assembly elections showed this up clearly enough.

And furthermore, with all the pros and cons of the debates in the Bundestag a great number of laws have been passed for which the government and Opposition have worked together harmoniously.

If more and more observers are raising more and more warning voices about the march of polarisation in the Federal Republic it is because this country's situation as far as a number of questions that are decisive for our times are concerned demands increasing unified action on the part of the two major political parties; more unified action than appears to be in the offing on the surface.

The two treaties with communist countries, the search for a satisfactory solution of the Berlin Question, indeed unavoidable reforms - such as tax reform - demand a fair degree of agreement if they are to be effective and to be accepted by the general public.

Ties of this kind must be forged over a long period and will not only be binding on the present Social Democrat/Free Democrat coalition government, but also on the government that follows this one, even if it should be formed by another party.

The changes in the party political scene that have been noted recently are not particularly conducive to optimism with regard to the degree of polarisation that is involved.

It has not been an everyday occurrence in the history of the Federal Republic that a decision on foreign policy, such as the matter of treaties with Russia and Poland, should affect the make-up of a provincial assembly as has been the case in the Rhineland Palatinate, where the FDP called for neutrality in the Bundestag or in Baden-Württemberg, where a government crisis that arose from the same set of circumstances may in certain circumstances end the coalition between the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats prematurely.

Similar situations to this arose in the early fifties when the question of the European defence community and possible entry into Nato came up for discussion.

At that time the Social Democrats tried to block the decision via the Bundestag (Upper House).

On the surface it seems that the bitter split between the government and Opposition will come as a result of the East Bloc treaties and the government's *Ostpolitik*. There is a certain amount of blame to be laid at their door since the trip to Moscow came much too early and was taken for spectacular reasons. Nevertheless it would be dangerous if a gap were opened up now between the government and Opposition on this score and all the bridges between them were burnt.

For the fact the Opposition is not so unified in its rejection of what the government is doing as may seem to be the case at the present moment.

With the politics game being played so fiercely at present there must be a certain amount of room for manoeuvre between the government and Opposition so that there is a chance for the government to take stock of the arguments put forward by this strong Opposition and make use of them in its negotiations with the hard-bargainers across the negotiating table.

In the near future another major consideration with regard to increased polarisation will be that the FDP leadership will no longer be able to justify its hopes that the party can maintain its position as a third force and act as a bridge between the two extremes.

Following the election in the Rhineland Palatinate the Free Democrats there have decided to go into opposition. Thus the alliance between the Free Democrats and the Christian Democrats which once set the tone of the provincial assemblies has disappeared.

Now indeed the FDP in Berlin and the Social Democrats there have found it difficult to come to terms, showing clearly how hard it is to live with such unequal marriages - unequal particularly with regard to the balance of power - over a long-term without complete integration of the two partners.

But this will scarcely do anything to alter the overall picture.

This only serves to accentuate the internal fissures of the FDP. In the Socialist/Liberal coalition up until now the SPD and FDP were partners and competitors at one and the same time. At forthcoming elections it will be difficult, if not impossible, for them to continue along these lines.

As far as the Christian Democrats are concerned these trends mean that if they want to come to power they will have to go all out to gain an absolute majority at the next general election.

This is no easy matter. It involves, necessarily almost, that the polarisation of the parties must become more marked than ever.

Certainly between now and 1973 a lot of water can flow under our political bridge. The process of fermentation within the parties goes on apace. And the alluvial sand of the electronic flows towards one party one day and another the next; a process that is becoming more marked all the time. The number of floating voters is at present estimated to be about twenty per cent of the electorate.

At the elections in Berlin the CDU gained in those wards that are traditionally red. In the Rhineland Palatinate the CDU lost in areas that are noted to be strongly Catholic, while they made gains in the Protestant areas that have tended to be less disposed towards them.

Nobody knows how the next generation of voters will place their X. They are manifestly less bound to old party patterns and lines of demarcation than the

older generation and will give their votes according to the tactics of one party or another.

It is particularly in the younger generation that a feeling has arisen that the bases of our political order and our society, and along with it also our whole style of living, do not always meet the demands called by our age.

The battle to try to do justice to these demands is at the present time and will in the immediate future be the task and at the same time the dilemma of every government.

We are - as experts never tire of reassuring us - still contradictory and procrastinate in drawing consequences from the situation in which the division of Germany, large-scale industrialisation and the shift of economic emphasis from agriculture have forced on us.

It is essential to take a sober look and recognise that the natural emphasis on the legislative branch, the executive branch and the dynamics of our industrial society can never be completely abolished. For every government, whatever constituent parties form it, there will be a great difficulty in recognising the appropriate yardstick for essential reforms.

Whatever is essential today, and we have fallen so far behind that there is a great deal in this category, must take precedence. Even the most sober calculations of what is to happen in the near and distant future must take great risk into account.

We are navigating dangerous waters in which excessive polarisation can be perilous.

In a recent interview Gerhard Schröder (CDU) said that this should not lead to poison-mixing or defamation of political opponents.

We cannot handle a division of the Bundestag into good and evil alongside the division of the nation. We could not set up in the Bundestag 251 goodies against 245 badies.

Schröder is of the opinion that the initiative must lie with the government which has at its disposal the most significant and influential offices. This is, of course, quite right since the government has direct access to all the information it requires and sits at the helm.

To the present day the Opposition has no idea what is actually contained in the Moscow Treaty. When consideration is given to the fact that the nerves of government members are frayed by the problems they have to master, how strong the divisions within the Cabinet and within the SPD are, and how difficult it is for the Chancellor to carry out a stricter leadership, then it can be recognised that Schröder's point of view is not so easy to put into operation.

Further, taken into consideration that the Opposition still has not solved its leadership problem nor set itself on a clear course there is no particular consolation to be found for the immediate future.

More than ever the way ahead will depend on the personalities on the one side and the other who draw up the demarcation lines of opposition and the conditions for cooperation, and who, when it is necessary, know how to work out tactics and routines.

Wilhelm Plog

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 3 April 1971)

## Bruno Heck and the Berlin question

Christian Democrat party secretary, Bruno Heck who is at present spending several days in Berlin said at a recent press conference that in his opinion his party and the Social Democrats no longer worked from a common basis with regard to the Berlin Question, but that all that remained for them was preparedness to cooperate.

Their differences of opinion were in the main to do with ideas about the presence

of Federal government agencies in Berlin. Whereas the Opposition was not prepared to grant that any of these should be renounced, the government is prepared, in Heck's opinion, to retain only those that are essential to uphold the economic and currency union between Berlin and the Federal Republic, and develop this on an administrative basis.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 6 April 1971)

## Bundestag in urgent need of reform

The Bundestag Easter holidays are an occasion for observers in Bonn to take stock of the situation and consider with a critical eye how the Bundestag's operations can be simplified and at the same time "politicised".

At the end of the first quarter of 1971 many members of the Bundestag share a feeling of uneasiness about unproductive, long debates, that have often been conducted with an eye to election tactics, on subjects such as facets of foreign and domestic policies.

It was not a mere matter of chance that the suggestion was put forward that Bundestag sessions should only take place in the mornings since the rows and rows of empty benches of the evening sessions give a general impression of disinterest.

The present Bundestag system is simply too much work for members. The major debates overshadow the effort and energy put into the minutia of the Bundestag which has to be carried out in the committees so that our legislative system keeps running.

Members of the Bundestag would have a much easier time of it, if it were not for the special State system in this country

## Kleiner Nachrichten

following the Second World War and as a result of the vast technical and economic developments which have made vast areas of the legal system need a thorough overhaul.

At the 75 plenary sessions and well over two hundred committee meetings in the first three months of this year there were more than one hundred items of legislation going through the prescribed three readings. These touched upon matters that are for the most part far-reaching and vital to large sectors of the community.

A glance back reveals deliberation on topics such as the budget, civil service pay, environmental protection, further education, agricultural aid and the reform of the penal system.

On the surface the pros and cons of governmental and financial reform may seem to have carried more weight, but for the man in the street the individual topics and decisions taken will prove to be far more important.

For example government interest often declared in the financing of university building programmes and expenditure on hospitals shows a far-reaching change from the federal structure of this country, even though many advocates of a State system that is as decentralised as possible are not keen to recognise this.

After the Easter recess Bundestag members will have to be no less industrious if they hope to have the work they have begun on important legislation finished according to schedule.

For this very reason there are frequent calls for parliamentary work to be rationalised by means of far-reaching reforms.

Up until now all plans to tighten up the work of Bundestag committees and to leave their legislative work to a kind of rump parliament have all fallen through.

Democracy must not be endangered if the formation of political wills takes place in the Bundestag, but individual decisions on specific points are made in special expert committees.

Even now the plenary meetings of the Bundestag usually pass legislation that has already been discussed and decided by the parliamentary committees.

Klaus Korff

(Kleiner Nachrichten, 5 April 1971)

## Israel would do well to reconsider

## Süddeutsche Zeitung

Now that the Egyptian terms have been made known it is easy to see why the Israeli government has rejected President Sadat's offer of a new armistice agreement.

The proposal was for direct negotiations with Israel and passage of the Suez canal for Israeli ships, two new and important concessions, but the price asked in return was one that Golda Meir could not pay without jeopardising her country's security - unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Canal Zone and its reoccupation by Egyptian troops.

A withdrawal was not out of the question, but only provided that both sides agreed to demilitarisation of the area in question. Instead of pulling back the front lines, though, Cairo merely insists that they be moved to its advantage.

Israel has been urged by its best friends, particularly by the United States, not to miss the opportunity of Egypt's offer. It does not have to agree to Castro's conditions, merely to show willingness to contribute towards a relaxation of tension.

The Israeli response has not come up to its friends' expectations. Mrs Meir has listed a number of counter-demands but failed to formulate them as a counter-proposal, which would have been the only diplomatically effective rejoinder.

The emphasis has been placed on what Israel cannot agree to. Now this may good domestic tactics for a government that has cast off the ballast of the right-wing Gahal Party but the probable foreign policy effect can be summed up in a quote from Goethe: "The others mainly hear the 'no'."

Even so undeniable an Israeli patriot as David Ben Gurion has warned against neglecting this opportunity of negotiating regardless of what amount to significant sacrifices. Reappraisal would be well worth considering.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 6 April 1971)

## Sino-Soviet war of words

The war of words between Moscow and Peking has gained considerably in volume in recent weeks. It is hard to say who started. Soviet accusations were certainly first levelled over Radio Moscow in Chinese.

The Chinese leaders, Radio Moscow claimed, are making it easier for the United States to neutralise their country. They reject anti-imperialist cooperation with the Soviet Union and have betrayed the principles of the Paris Communiqué.

Whereupon the Chinese trained the big guns on their rivals. On the hundredth anniversary of the Commune the three leading Chinese dailies commented that: "The Soviet renegades have made the Soviet Union a paradise for a handful of bureaucratic monopoly capitalists of a new kind and turned it into a penitentiary for millions of working people."

Leonid Brezhnev may have made a gesture in Peking's direction in offering China "good-neighbourly relations" in his party congress speech and relations between the two have indeed improved.

But reconciliation between the two parties need hardly be expected. The Chinese were evidently not even invited to attend the Party Congress in Moscow. Five years ago the Chinese failed to respond to the invitation.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 7 April 1971)



## ■ POLITICS

## Communists attract more members than active voters

The elections in West Berlin and Rhineland-Palatinate have corrected any false impressions that may have been gained of the strength of the Communist Party (DKP) from the material issued and speeches made during the election campaigns.

The party gained 0.9 per cent of the votes in Rhineland-Palatinate and its sister organisation, the SEW (the Socialist Unity Party of West Berlin), which has a special position in the city anyway, attracted 2.3 per cent, hardly a sign that

### Extremism no threat to security, Senator Ruhnau claims

Senator Heinz Ruhnau, the Chairman of the Federal States' Interior Ministers Conference, has stated that political extremism no longer represents any danger to the security of the Federal Republic.

In an interview with the UPI news agency Ruhnau, the Minister of the Interior for Hamburg, said that all parties with extreme political views had failed during the past twelve months.

The membership of extreme right-wing organisations decreased from 38,000 to 31,000 within a year. At the end of last year the National Democratic Party numbered only 21,000 members. "This weakening of organised right-wing extremism has led to a fragmentation of its active potential," Ruhnau claimed.

The agitation of these groups was less of a problem, he said, than violence and the extreme right-wing tendency to own and, in specific cases, use weapons.

On the extreme left-wing the official Communist Party was opposed by the Red Cells and Marxist-Leninist groups. Most of these groups today opposed the use of force, though, Ruhnau stressed, this did not rule it out for a future stage of the political struggle.

The Minister of the Interior viewed developments with caution and would not hesitate in a case of emergency to ban extremist groups or set in motion the machinery to ban them.

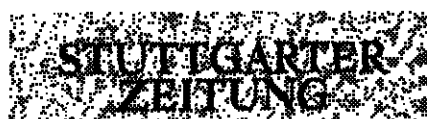
On the left-wing the Communists are faced by a large number of groups belonging to the New Left that considered themselves to be part of a revolutionary movement but were at odds over the strategy to be employed, Ruhnau continued.

Communists in the Federal Republic who remain true to the Moscow party line are organised in the DKP, a party whose programme drawn up on 13 April 1969 is in line with the Federal Republic's Party Law.

The Senator pointed out that the DKP was largely made up of officials of the banned KPD and its membership. The question of whether the DKP was a revived KPD and therefore subject to the ban was of subordinate interest, Ruhnau said. The question of whether an extremist party should be banned is more a question of political opportunity, he added.

Ruhnau believes that the Red Cells formed mainly at universities belong to the many groups of New Left originating from the student protest movement.

Many of these groups had revolutionary aims that were definitely unconstitutional, he said, adding that most of these Red Cells were just about as stable as their aims. (DIE WELT, 24 March 1971)



the DKP enjoys the broad political support of the public.

Communists are still outsiders in the political and social life of the Federal Republic. The DKP was set up in 1969 and officially tolerated despite the ban on the former Communist Party, the KPD, but party work is largely carried out behind closed doors. How strong are the new Communists in actual fact and what do they believe in?

When the Constitutional Court banned the KPD in August 1956 the party had 70,000 members. According to unofficial estimates, the DKP has 33,000 members.

Almost three thousand of this total joined the DKP in the past three months, undeniably result of increased Communist activity in the elections to the Provincial Assemblies of West Berlin and Rhineland-Palatinate.

Rallies, electioneering and party functions show clearly that it is mainly young people such as students who are attracted by the Communists despite the authoritarian beliefs of the Marxist cadre party.

These young people have had no personal experience of either right-wing or left-wing dictatorships and are not offended by the portrait of Stalin that looks down upon them in party headquarters.

Since the KPD was banned, there has been a natural decrease in the numbers of old Communists. They have gradually been replaced in the new DKP by young Communists, a considerable number of whom come from the Spartacus Association of Marxist Youth and the Education and Science Trade Union.

But it is still the old KPD members and officials like Kurt Bachmann, the sixty-year-old DKP Chairman, or Richard Scherzinger, the party's seventy-year-old agricultural expert, that control the party.

For the party newspaper *Unsere Zeit* (UZ) Bachmann employs unpaid functionaries, long-serving party journalists such as Thomas Silberstein of the German Democratic Republic's *Deutschland*

sender and the Paris correspondent Gerda Lorenz.

Ideologically, the DKP is fighting a war on two fronts. To its left stands the Maoist Marxist-Leninist KPD whose members attack DKP members as revisionists and accuse the Soviet Union — sacrosanct in the eyes of the DKP — of what they call Socialist Imperialism.

To the right the enemy is the National Democratic Party attacked in public campaigns and the Social Democrats in ideological issues.

The policy of domestic reforms presents the DKP with problems that did not face the KPD at the height of the cold war. Attacks have to be made from a different angle and the target has grown smaller.

But the DKP has not given up the old aim of unity of action between Communists and Social Democrats. Banner headlines in *Unsere Zeit* announce isolated successes as in Hesse where the party claims that sixty Young Socialists have joined the DKP in recent months.

DKP officials are currently using weekend courses and ideological seminars to interpret their pipedream of left-wing unity as a realistic aim by claiming that the Social Democrats are made up on the one hand of the right-wing party leadership and on the other of the mass of its members and voters.

Problems of foreign or domestic policy or even local or regional grievances are being used as an excuse for Communist-controlled community action campaigns.

The ratification of the Moscow Treaty was discussed in Düsseldorf, plans to set up an arsenal of what were claimed to be nuclear, bacterial and chemical weapons were the subject of a meeting at Mörfelden, the Hamburg branch attacked high rents and land speculation, in Munich the increase in car insurance was the target while the shortage of kindergartens was attacked in Nuremberg and Ludwigs-hafen.

Another ideological doctrine which is being given increased prominence at the moment is the call for a policy of Marxist alliance. Labour conflicts would then in future be internationalised. International strikes would be part of the Communist battle against international capitalism.

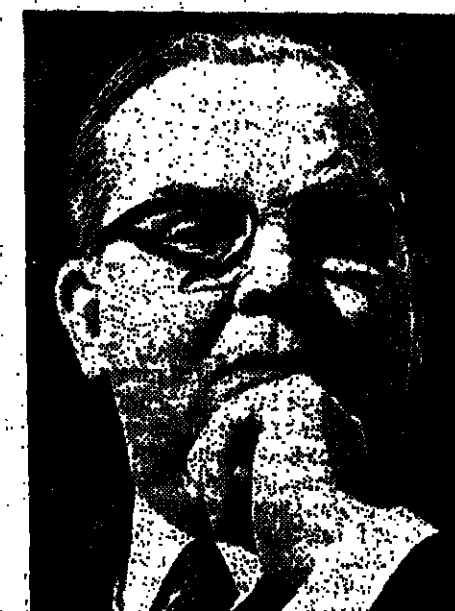
## CDU mourns the death of Josef Hermann Dufhues

Josef Hermann Dufhues, the honorary chairman of the Christian Democrats in North Rhine-Westphalia, died on 26 March of a virus infection picked up during a recent trip to Africa. He was 62.

Dufhues could have become the leader of the Christian Democrats or even the Chancellor of the Federal Republic. At the end of the fifties and the beginning of the sixties he played an important role and not only within his party.

Dufhues was one of the small number of politicians in the Federal Republic who moulded the future of this country at the end of the Adenauer era. It was partly due to his influence that Ludwig Erhard succeeded Konrad Adenauer in 1963.

Dufhues was elected Federal Chairman of the Christian Democrats in 1962, against Adenauer's wishes. After all, the leader of the Westphalian CDU had stated that his aim was to free the party from its



DKP officials hope to attract Young Socialist sympathies for this campaign.

The agitation being carried out by Communists old and new can be seen from the number of their publications. During the Lenin-Liebknecht-Luxemburg Week alone the DKP issued 108 far-left newspapers with a circulation of 189,000 copies, 53 local papers with a circulation of 111,000 copies, eleven university papers and a large number of leaflets and pamphlets.

This figure does not include the local elections in Baden-Württemberg this autumn. The DKP is planning its own newspapers for residential suburbs. Karlsruhe. The party has already nominated thirty candidates there. Its membership in the city is 160.

But the DKP's next election campaign is in Schleswig-Holstein where 44 Communist candidates will be trying to gain seats in the Provincial Assembly while Communist has sat since the Federal Republic was set up.

The party will not be entering election with much hope but it does want to miss the chance of spreading action basis during the election campaign. (STUTT GARTER ZEITUNG, 30 March)

### Press office reveals how the public see the main parties

The Social Democratic Party has a "male" party. The Christian Democrats and Christian Social Union have better men however, although the SPD's turn appears to be the better party.

The SPD's foreign and education policy is excellent while the CDU could deal better with the economic situation and keep prices down. Generally the SPD has established itself as governing party.

These are the results of four surveys conducted over the past seven years (1964, 1968, 1969 and 1971) by the Allensbach Institut für Demoskopie.

State Secretary Conrad Ahlers, head of the federal press office, published the results after the Axel Springer domestic news agency had published what he called tendentious excerpts.

In 1964 only 25 per cent of the population believed that the SPD was conducting a successful foreign policy. By the beginning of 1971 the ratio had risen to 34.31 per cent in favour of the CDU.

The strongest swing concerned price stability. In September 1969 the SPD clearly led the CDU with 40.24 per cent. By January 1971 this had changed to a 29.24 per cent lead for the CDU/CSU.

Both the CDU/CSU and the SPD developed a satisfactory public image. In January this year 32 per cent of the interviewed sample said that the CDU/CSU had the better men as opposed to 20 per cent for the SPD.

The number of people believing the SPD to be the better party has sunk from the 1968 figure of 37 per cent to 33 per cent. But this still gives the party a lead over the CDU/CSU which increased from 26 to 30 per cent over the same period.

It is interesting to learn that the SPD will be thought of a party for men, the results showed that men were far more likely to approve of the SPD than women — the difference sometimes reaching fifteen per cent.

On the other hand the CDU/CSU has a minimal predominance of women, somewhere between one and three per cent. Men are usually more clearly for or against a party than women. Between six and fourteen per cent of women interviewed said that the SPD and the CDU/CSU were equal.

Hans Lerchbacher (Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 April 1971)

## ■ BONN

## Government publish extensive health report

Basic Law does not guarantee a right to health but the first Health Report ever to be issued by a government in the Federal Republic now states: "Concern for health is the duty of the State. Society is obligated to provide conditions necessary to ensure the health of its citizen. Health furthers the economic and moral strength of the community and the happiness of the citizen."

That sounds good, especially as 32.5 per cent of the male population and 43 per cent of the female are, the Federal Statistics Bureau claims, under regular medical treatment and can therefore be classified as sick.

People also like to hear that the State is concerned about their happiness. For the healthy happiness means the preservation of their health while for the sick it means speedy recovery and the best possible treatment.

Questions as to who is to foot the bill are answered differently by the individual, local authorities, Federal states, private hospitals, doctors and those concerned with the sick and the various health insurance organisations.

If the State passes laws, draws up plans or even makes suggestions to improve health services, people immediately see the spectre of socialised medicine.

The Health Ministry's report reveals the poor health situation here. Statistics do not flatter the Federal Republic. We take up the fifth position in mortality resulting

Continued from page 4

able to attract confidence. 46 per cent now believe that the SPD's foreign policy will be successful.

Confidence in the CDU/CSU declined during the same period from the 1964 figure of 36 per cent to 26 per cent in 1971. A similar trend can be seen in education and science policy.

There has been a clear shift of confidence in the ability of the two parties to handle the economy and control prices. In 1969 the SPD enjoyed the confidence of 36 per cent of the interviewed sample while the CDU attracted 31 per cent. By the beginning of 1971 the ratio had turned 34.31 per cent in favour of the CDU.

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Hans Lerchbacher (Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 April 1971)

provement in general health information.

Unfortunately the report has omitted to say which of its recommendations are most important. It is impossible to pay for them all at one go.

The government also knows from experience how difficult it is to push through constitutional changes necessary for these laws. It faces hard clashes with interest groups as well as the authorities responsible for financing the hospitals.

Drug manufacturers will for instance object to any proposal to replace their own system of control for their products by State supervision.

The law concerning hospital finances shows how quickly the situation is changing. With 600 million Marks the government meant to take the first step towards relieving the local authorities and the Federal states of the burden involved in renovating and old-fashioned hospital system or building up a new one.

This was no more than a drop in the ocean, as is now realised. The losses incurred by hospitals and the various bodies financing them already run to thousands of millions of Marks. The provision of a hospital bed costs between 110,000 and 130,000 Marks, as the Health Report itself states.

In 1970 there were 112 hospital beds available for every 10,000 inhabitants of the Federal Republic but the situation is only numerically good. If attention is to be paid to the demands of modern medicine, hospital investment must be much higher.

Another example is provided by the doctors who are now drawing up a new system of charges in line with the current value of money. Here too preliminary estimates of medical costs will one day be overtaken by the new charges.

As good and as necessary as they are, health reports will only earn the trust and confidence of the man in the street if they state the priorities of health policy and make clear proposals on how the necessary reforms are to be financed.

It is clear that health means not only happiness but is also necessary for the economy to function properly. Investments in this field too have their returns. But costs are rising and will continue to do so from year to year.

Joachim W. Reiffenrath (Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 1 April 1971)

### Morning debates to improve Bundestag attendances

Moersch tried to find an answer, packed his papers together and returned to the government bench.

Wehner, speaking as the chairman of the Social Democrat parliamentary party, then referred to the empty seats in the Bundestag and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, I am addressing you."

Rainer Barzel, the chairman of the Christian Democrats and Christian Social parliamentary group, recommended the government to think again about providing a string of government statements at this inhibited true debate.

He added, "We should also consider what we are to do on Fridays in future in view of the transport situation."

Since Kai-Uwe von Hassel became Bundestag President the transport situation for members is better than it has ever been.

Members of the Bundestag have always received free rail tickets but now they are also entitled to use sleeper free of charge, travel by plane and, recently, even demand charter flights.

The presidium is considering having Bundestag debates from nine o'clock in

### Ahlers proposes to tighten up Press Office operations

The Federal Press and Information Bureau, a government organisation, intends to tighten up and modernise its work. State Secretary Conrad Ahlers, head of the Bureau, has announced that an inspector has been appointed to examine where the service can be pruned.

Ahlers says that the Bureau has now attained its best possible operational size and an increase in staff is not to be recommended.

As the Bureau is faced with new responsibilities however, Ministerial Director Niebel has been commissioned to find out which activities can be pruned so that others can be extended.

The Press Bureau has also taken over the control of research commissions. It is now for instance directing a survey on communications research financed by the Bundestag and is also supplying money for an opinion poll project concerning the Infratest Institute that is meant to provide a sort of sociological early-warning system.

The visitors' service is to be centralised and there is also to be an information service along the lines of that run by the Bundestag.

The Press Bureau will also arrange for journalists to meet prominent politicians in the most important cities in the Federal Republic.

Ahlers pointed out that the Press Bureau had issued a lot of advertising material lately. He believed that the voters' need for objective information was on the increase, as was their knowledge.

Conrad Ahlers believes that he gets on well with the Opposition firstly because of the way Christian Democrat members of the Press Bureau have been treated since the change of government and secondly because government spokesmen have obeyed Chancellor Willy Brandt's call not to become involved in controversy with the Opposition. Ahlers states that his trouble with the Social Democratic Party is also as good as over.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 30 March 1971)

the morning until one in the afternoon on Wednesdays and Thursdays followed by question time until two o'clock and committee work from three o'clock onwards.

Debates would then last from nine to twelve on Friday mornings, followed by question time until one o'clock in the afternoon. After one o'clock members would no longer be required to attend.

On Wednesdays and Thursdays the midday break from two to three o'clock could be used for urgent debates if need be.

At present the Bundestag is normally in session all day Wednesday and until the early afternoon on Fridays. Thursdays are set aside for committee work.

Proposals for morning debates were rejected two years ago by the chairman of some committees who said that more could be done in one whole day of work than in two half-days.

This time the proposal could be rejected by the Opposition which might see in this move an attempt to curtail its right to present itself to the public via the Bundestag.

The Bundestag doctor has also entered the discussion with a serious warning about the state of health of many Bundestag members. There were three fatal heart attacks this winter and two cases of circulatory disturbance are at present under hospital treatment.

Rudolf Strauch (DIE WELT, 31 March 1971)



## ■ THE STAGE

## New Rainer Fassbinder play premiered in Nuremberg

There are few formal elements in Rainer Werner Fassbinder's new play *Blut am Hals der Katze* which has just had its premiere in Nuremberg.

Fassbinder has taken a few quotations made by famous people such as Goethe, Galileo Galilei and, as a special concession to Nuremberg's Dürer Year, Albrecht Dürer, and moulded them into a series of unconnected scenes.

The few dozen or so scenes develop through three stages. First there is the characterising monologue, then the dialogue about the pointlessness of everything on Earth and finally a mosaic of voices complaining about the desperate emptiness of life.

Fassbinder has also added banal commentaries to a few of these scenes in recitative style. He turns the play into a kaleidoscope-like chain of experiences enjoyed by a comic strip figure rejoicing under the name of Phoebe Zeitgeist.

Phoebe Zeitgeist has been sent to Earth from a distant star to write a report on the democracy of the humans. But she finds her task difficult. She does not understand the language of the humans although she has learnt the words.

The obvious inability of humans, be they lovers, husbands, wives, working colleagues, teachers, vicars, prostitutes or soldiers, to use words as bridges to other humans and act so that words produce happiness forces the visitor from the distant star to conclude that the Earthman's use of words produces nothing but complexes, repression and aggression.

But there is worse to come. Phoebe

Zeitgeist falls victim to these laws of life and becomes a vampire. She sucks the blood of Earthlings and kills, kills, kills...

So much for the elements of this play with the obscure title *Blut am Hals der Katze* (Marilyn Monroe contre les vampires) — the rest is collage.

The play had its premiere in the Nuremberg Kammerspiele under the joint direction of Fassbinder and Peer Raben. It was commissioned by the city as part of the Dürer Year and it was also produced by Fassbinder's Munich Anti-Theater group for television.

This fact must be mentioned as part of the somewhat threadbare stage effects of the play must be blamed on this multi-purpose production.

As the simultaneous scenery is static this leads to boredom in all the monologues about earning money, love or quarrels between husband and wife and in all the dialogues about theft, homosexuality, strikes or love.

Love appears all the time along with death, not however as part of the action but as mere examples in a decorative collage.

Perhaps the television camera will be able to bring out more effectively the personal character of these Everyman figures.

The function of Phoebe Zeitgeist in the play remains obscure because of the direction. She does not act like a person who has come from a distant star and whose curiosity turns into lack of composure and then into aggression but like a

silent beauty who is only waiting for a man to take her.

What this collage also lacks is a linking factor to give the series of scenes a peculiar linguistic or material accent though without becoming theatrical. Fassbinder himself consciously rejects any theatricality.

The language of the play is a curious mixture of platitude, high-falutin' clichés and a sentimentality that sometimes approaches the regions of sloppiness.

It is common to describe Fassbinder as an anti-emotional playwright but that is simply not true. His play has a certain charm because of the inhibited way he admits that young people too have a great need of emotions in our allegedly so unsentimental world.

Fassbinder was wise enough to relegate his views on the connection between society and unhappiness to the programme and to exclude them from the play itself. He would otherwise have



Hanna Schygulla and Rainer Werner Fassbinder in *Blut am Hals der Katze* at Nuremberg. (Photo: dpa)

found it difficult to prove this claim.

Apart from the playwright, the play consisted of Hanna Schygulla, My Carstensen, Katrin Schanke, Ingrid Heide Simon, Hannes Gromball, Raab, Ulli Lommel and Hans H. Müller.

Klaus Collet

(Kielser Nachrichten, 24 March 1971)

## Three experimental operas produced in new Kiel studio

Despite the modest budget on which he operates Joachim Kläiber has in Kiel something that Rolf Liebermann was unable to obtain for the Hamburg Staatsoper and that August Everding is now looking for for future experiments.

Since 1969 Kläiber has had an operatic studio for experimental works that do not require the vast amount of bulky, space-consuming props, scenery and technology as the usual opera.

This operatic studio, the stimulus for similar schemes in Munich and Stuttgart, has established itself in the new hexagonal student theatre on the city's university campus.

The building is well-equipped with technical apparatus and allows the production of variable forms of theatre. Though the studio is fitted with the normal peephole type of stage, platforms can be placed in the auditorium as well.

Operating an operatic studio is not primarily a question of space but one of inner commitment. Kläiber is committed. He has been director of the Kiel opera since 1963, has worked together with conductors such as Michael Gielen, Bruno Maderna and Hans Zender, the general musical director, and produced a proud series of modern operas in their German if not world premieres. Above all he has staged the first multi-media experiments of Dieter Schönbach and Manfred Niehaus in his opera house.

Kläiber has logically pursued the course he thinks opera should take. A visit to the new studio where three works have been combined to form an evening's programme will convince a person of that.

The first opera was meant to be a new work by Peter Maxwell Davies but his score was held up during the British postal strike.

This was replaced at short notice by Royten Haubenstock-Ramati's *End Game* based on Beckett's play of the same

name. As in Munich a year ago, it was produced by the Polish producer Jan Biczycski.

But the production was completely different. This time Biczycski takes up the composer's remark that the opera need not be bound to a normal stage.

He places his putrefying characters in a symbolic triangle in a round arena that is surrounded on all sides by the audience.

They sit on rotating stools, barely outlined by the hellish halflight referred to in the text, are laced up and kept upright in the colourless, decayed costumes of a Baroque opera and eternal-

ly repeat their monotonous scraps of memorised material.

The fact that singer and not actors have been cast in these roles aids Haubenstock-Ramati's intentions. The human voice's wide range of expression from toneless sounds to melodic outbursts can then be included in the performance.

The accompaniment by three percussion groups was not live in this production but was recorded beforehand and played over loudspeakers whose volume had been turned down a long way.

The second work had already been performed in Wiesbaden in 1970. Ingo-



mar Grünauer's collage *Lipnans* combines two short stories by John Bobrowski that have little to do with another.

One of the stories is read out by speaker, played in Kiel with dispassionate intensity by producer Biczycski, while the other is acted and sung.

The two tales combine to form a gloomily fateful, grimly humorous Jewish-Oriental milieu. Various elements are unexpectedly juxtaposed, providing the same mood and making it more potent.

The music does not help, but establishes itself, apparently completely independent, on a third level. A tiny chamber orchestra conducted by Georg Schmöke throws itself spontaneously into the course of the work, persists in playing fragile passages, raises itself up and falls silent.

The third work was being performed for the first time in this country. It was Westergaard's *Mr and Mrs Discobolus* a light, pleasant work that is already 40 years old.

Unlike the other works played on evening, *Mr and Mrs Discobolus* refers to the old operatic tradition, but at the same time pokes fun at it. Bare numbers are sung according to the series principle. Old forms and modern formalisation are quoted and parodied.

The musical material to be found in two halves into which the series of scenes is divided accentuates the text with exuberantly or excitedly and fearfully astonishing tonal whole, just the framework for this innocent, gay, sensual story which resembles very much the miniatures of René de Obaldia.

On their way to a picnic *Mr and Mrs Discobolus* is an absurd

A scene from Roman Haubenstock-Ramati's opera *End Game* (Photo: Haubenstock-Ramati)

## ■ WRITING

## Heinrich Mann remains an unknown and misunderstood quantity in German literature

He came to the attention of the public at the turn of the century, that is to say, at a time when writers were up in arms and were attacking the status quo of society.

But after their "Storm and Stress" period they lost that sensitivity that made them critical of society and with age they became calm men.

But in the case of Heinrich Mann the procedure was reversed. His first novel, *Inner Familie* (In a family) was written in the decadent style of the death agonies of the nineteenth century.

Soon, however, the elder Mann harnessed himself to satire with themes and forms that uncovered contradictions in the tradition of Georg Büchner and Heinrich Heine.

This awareness, which is more than the nationalism of an age of enlightenment since it leads one's thoughts to the path of action, made Heinrich Mann into a political writer.

## Lübeck honours Heinrich Mann

A memorial plaque for Heinrich Mann, who would have been one hundred on 27 March this year is to be placed on the Buddenbrook House in Lübeck by the city senate.

Burgomaster Werner Kock announced the proposal to place the plaque on the famous Mann house in Mengstrasse on the occasion of a reception for participants at the Heinrich Mann Congress in Lübeck.

In addition a street is to be named after the author who died in 1950 in the United States.

The "Buddenbrook House" was the birthplace not only of Heinrich Mann but also of his famous brother Thomas.

At the same time an exhibition of first editions, manuscripts in the author's own handwriting, early newspaper clipping and photographs was opened at Lübeck's Domuseum.

Dr Klaus Mathias, Chairman of the Lübeck Thomas Mann Society, voiced his regret in his opening speech that the promised manuscripts from the Deutsche Akademie der Künste in East Berlin had not arrived.

The exhibition therefore had to be rearranged at the last moment and now shows alongside the first editions of novels, novellas and essays by Heinrich Mann some handwritten manuscripts from the Lübeck Stadtbibliothek collection. (Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 March 1971)

Continued from page 6:  
Discobolus climb a wall that stands all on its own in the middle of a wilderness. As they are unable to get down again they carry on their marriage on top of the wall, make love, quarrel, raise twelve children until the idyllic life is destroyed by their own discontent.

Mr Discobolus suddenly turns angry and blows up the wall together with his family. He and his wife return as angels to the gloomy wilderness of this theatrical world to present the final duet to the audience.

This finale to the production in Kiel, sung by Judith Turano and Martin Häusser and produced once again by Biczycski, was played among the ruins of the wall.

*Mr and Mrs Discobolus* is an absurd reminder of an absurd pastoral opera in which the scenic directions are also sung. (DIE WELT, 24 March 1971)

His career as a novelist reached its high point for the first time at the end of the First World War, but his best novel, *Der Untertan* could not be published until after the collapse since it was a vicious satire on Kaiser Wilhelm and his times.

Modern novels are like battles for freedom fought by the people of all countries against the tyrants in their countries, against the petrified form of their society.

However, it is wrong to schematise. The German race is a people of two poles, two absolute extremes. One of its basic characteristics is the Faustian urge, metaphysical unrest.

But this search for the transcendental, was contradicted by the exaggerated pragmatism of the Wilhelmian era, aping America, the magnificent façade with nothing behind it of the inflation years and finally the Third Reich and the National Socialist era.

At this time reaction to the social and political awareness went through its apothecosis. It was then that Heinrich Mann the fighter was born.

He fought for the idea of freedom against the feudal and militaristic vestiges of the pre-War era and against the tyrannical encroachment of big capital.

Mann fought against the crippling power of the past; he launched himself into the fray and joined attempts to rescue the German spirit and soul from the trauma that had been caused by the War.

With the seizure of power by the National Socialists this battle had to come to an end and along with so much of the flower of Germany Heinrich Mann had to go into involuntary exile.

What he wrote at the end of the Great War in his essay on Emile Zola was to be an ironic foresight of the situation that now faced him:

"He went out into a dark night, saw the lights of his fatherland go out and realised that he must now flee since he had wanted honesty and justice... It was the severest burden he had to carry."

His unremitting articles were deemed as mere vituperation and very few people, among them Kurt Tucholsky by 1919, had come to realise his true motives.

"He loved his country and vilified those who had made it into one big barracks, one big treadmill..."

Mann was an enemy of nationalism and militarism. He was a vanguard fighter for democratic socialism. He wrote: "War must be discredited..."

He demanded: "The idea of the republic must become commonplace."

Forty-four years ago he said that Germany's historical role was to be, "middleman between the East and West." At the same time he stressed that: "It is no longer necessary to say that for Europe the most important part in international history is unfinished."

Neither as a man nor as a writer was Heinrich Mann conventional. He felt no ties binding him as far as techniques, points of view and grammar were concerned.

In German literature a work has often been preceded by a programme. Heinrich Mann was the only author who, apart from being in at the creation of the Expressionist style, later formulated a programme for it.

Compared with him contemporary writers were nothing more than craftsmen playing on the subtleties. He himself remained imaginative, full of ideas, satirical; he left the beaten track and his contours can best be described as like an amoeba.

Heinrich Mann took the point of view that the function of the novel was not just to relate events but to improve the world as well.

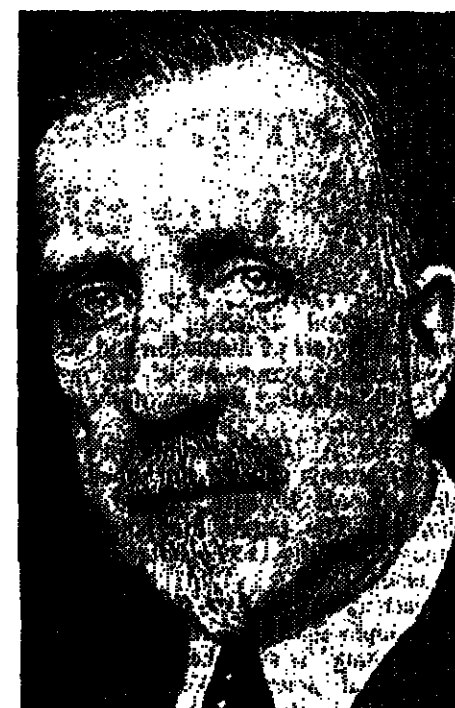
The artistry of his novel-writing covers a broad sweep and has great scope. It includes the power of the grotesque in life, recognition of psychological processes, a great certainty in the portrayal of mankind, moral passion, the sympathetic art of stripping people bare, the greatness of the human gaze, an atmosphere of the great epic, a deep insight into fragile but picturesque characters and cutting German humour.

This giant among German authors has remained even until today on the periphery of the Federal Republic, known as the other Mann.

Prejudiced minds label him "Communist" or "heretic", and dub his works as symptomatic of Communism and heresy. This vilification is nothing new.

On 21 March 1950 Thomas Mann made a note: "He (Heinrich) himself would not have taken the long, gushing, highly solemn telegrams of the East Berlin government agencies too seriously. And yet the fact that no word at all came from Bonn, Frankfurt, Munich and even his own home town of Lübeck is miserable."

"Heinrich Mann is our property," Wal-



Heinrich Mann (Photo: dpa)

ter Ulbricht boasts today and immediately switches to attack:

"We would doubtless be underestimating the campaigners... of German Imperialism, and criminally, if we were not prepared for the eventuality of their attempts, sure to come, to claim sole representation for Heinrich Mann and to falsify what he wrote, throwing an anti-Communist light upon it and beating it up into something offensive."

This complaint is unwarranted. Ulbricht's anxiety is unmotivated, but it certainly does sound like an attempt on the part of the German Democratic Republic's leader to justify himself.

Heinrich Mann wrote: "Cooperation between the intellectuals and the proletariat is the only sensible attitude." But he added by way of explanation: "Violence is strong, but goodness is even stronger."

At the age of seventy-five, a purged and purified man, he remarked: "All I know of is works that sometimes survive. Of the battles I watched and fought in nothing has remained."

Walter Ulbricht was obviously thinking back to the meeting in Paris after which Heinrich Mann apostrophised: "... I cannot sit at a table with a man (he meant Ulbricht) who suddenly states that the table at which we are sitting is a duckpond and wants me to agree with him that it is a duckpond, not a table."

To the end of his days he remained, as Thomas Mann said, sceptical: "Wanted to and yet did not want to. The adventure was in front of him and all of us, horrifying, and all the while it remained unreal."

The boundaries of the German Democratic Republic would have been too narrow for Heinrich Mann and his genius. Heinrich Mann was indivisible — he belonged neither to the West nor the East, but to the whole German nation and to the literature of the whole world. The question remains unanswered, how long before we come to recognise this fact?

Do we believe the prophecy of Heinrich's brother: "Yes, I am convinced that German school textbooks in the twenty-first century will contain extracts from this book (*Ein Zeitalter wird beschliffen* — looking at an era) as being exemplary."

"For the fact that this late author was one of the greatest in the German language, will in the short or long-run overcome the reluctant awareness of this German possession."

Andre von Szekely

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 26 March 1971)

The birthplace of the Mann brothers in Lübeck that was rebuilt after being damaged in the Second World War. (Photo: Archiv/Alice Pilow)





## ■ EDUCATION

## Computers move into the classroom

Teacher shortages, large classes and antiquated teaching methods are common points of discussion and are the most striking symptoms of the malaise presently affecting this country's educational system.

In North Rhine-Westphalia alone 39,000 lessons a week are cancelled at high schools because of the teacher shortage. The pupils are not learning enough and the teachers face excessive demands.

Teachers do not have the time to give their pupils individual treatment. "Frontal teaching" is still the most common educational practice. Teachers present their material in lecture form without being able to check whether they have put it over clearly and successfully. Their pupils remain passive.

Computer teaching programmes on the other hand are tuned to the learning speed of the individual pupil. The curriculum is divided into logical, consecutive sections.

Pupils only go on to the next section after completing and understanding the previous one. Test questions prevent any cheating.

Cribbing is unnecessary. The programmes are arranged in such a way that pupils reach the end of a course at a speed commensurate with their ability. Fast learners quickly complete the programme while slower pupils are allowed to take their time.

The computer programmes do not discourage pupils. They are patient, unbiased and repeat the lesson until it is learnt. They do not punish the pupil for a wrong answer but encourage him to try again.

They ask intermediate questions and vary the pattern of questions leading the pupil to the right conclusions. As the programmes can be systematically planned each pupil is guaranteed tailor-made information.

New teaching systems of this kind free teachers from routine work. The computer programme provides the information that they would otherwise have to supply.

Teachers are therefore given time to carry out their true educational function as advisers and helpers who supplement the curriculum, point out problems and work out the answers. A single teacher can take a number of groups of pupils at the same time.

Programmed learning is not necessarily dependent on computers. Teaching programmes only represent a special sort of educational method. Even the traditional

textbook can be arranged in programmatic fashion.

Teaching machines that store lessons on paper rolls or film-strips are a step forward technologically. Pupils have to press a button to show whether they have found the right answer to a question. The machine then allows them to go on to the next task at hand. If this had been a book programme the pupil would have turned over a page.

But the most perfect teaching machines are computers. Linked with slide or film projectors and a tape recorder they are the best private tutors imaginable.

The advantages are obvious. Learning becomes more individual and more effective and the time taken becomes shorter, as tests have shown. More people can learn more things. That means that educational opportunities become more democratic and more people are allowed access to education.

But schools and other public institutions such as adult education centres have only been able to dream of using such teaching systems up to now. There are isolated experiments here and there but these are exceptions.

Computers are still a pipedream for schools. In actual practice many classrooms do not even have electrical points where slide or film projectors could be plugged in.

Money's short. One working position controlled by a small computer costs today 20,000 Marks. There is also a shortage of experts to plan and use new methods. Teachers have not been trained to use the new media. Anti-technological prejudice might also play a role here.

Our schools still rely purely on book-learning in an age of audio-visual aids. Blackboard, duster and chalk are still the teacher's most important aids as they were a century ago.

Industry realised long ago that a good education is a good long-term investment. But the State and the school authorities obviously have not learnt this lesson yet.

It is industry that has provided most of the incentive towards developing new and advanced forms of teaching, though always related to their own economic needs and productivity in the capitalist sense of maximising profit.

The schools can learn a lot from these learning schemes that are based entirely on productivity and performance but they must not adopt them without examining them critically.

They will have to consider whether they can follow a purely technocratic concept of education that still understands productivity as no more than measurable performance.

But they cannot delay any longer. The whole education industry is getting ready to flood the market with new teaching methods and technological systems.



An eight-year-old using a computer to do his geography lessons

The industry's most spectacular product at present is the cassette which is basically no more than a practical film store that can be easily used at any time. When it is ready for sale it will be an important learning method for anyone wishing to have private further education independently of schools. The cassette allows study at home and does not bind a pupil to fixed hours as courses in evening school, at university or on television would.

However it would not be in the public interest to leave the planning and development of cassettes and similar modern educational aids to private industry alone.

Schools must express their demands and their hopes more clearly than they have up to now. State education ministers have indeed set up a joint committee with the government in Bonn to examine primarily innovations in the field of educational technology but its jurisdiction is limited. There are no binding criteria or guide lines. There is no overall conception of education.

The centres of educational technology (one was recently opened in Hesse and another is planned for North Rhine-Westphalia) will have to carry out pioneer

work for the schools and other public institutions.

Too little attention is being paid to the way in which the new educational technology is going to alter the structure of the school itself.

If programmed learning is to have sense at all and if the theoretical advantage that every pupil can adapt to the speed of a course to his own ability is to be adopted in practice, the traditional method of forming classes according to age must be ended and small groups be set up where the main criterion is the pupil's educational standard.

The benefits of individual learning would be practically wiped out if subsequently the individual pupil were pulled down to the average standard of the class.

The traditional 45-minute lesson also has to disappear and give way to more flexible learning periods that are either shorter or longer, all depending on what is being taught and the time it takes to teach it. Our school system must therefore be radically changed.

Furthermore, if teachers are to be brought to the new demands placed on them the use of technical media must be included in their training.

The first experiments in this direction also have been made in Cologne. Some fifty mathematics teachers have sacrificed three free afternoons to attend a course acquainting them with the use of computers in mathematics teaching.

The invitations were issued by a firm of manufacturers that has organised courses of this type in nine other cities in North Rhine-Westphalia in the first half of March. The education authorities of the Federal state recommended attendance.

The course introduced teachers to data-processing and computer-programming by using examples that might crop up in practice in class.

After three afternoons the teachers learnt the computer language and were able to draw up their own programmes and feed them to the computer. The enthusiasm grew hourly so a start has been made at least.

It must finally be pointed out that everything in the learning process can be programmed. A combination of teacher and computer will always be seen from an educational point of view. Learning, you see, does not mean just knowing people. Learning means gaining knowledge, recognising contradictions and changing behaviour.

Programmes are of benefit when they are repeated and learnt. They cannot replace practical experience.

H. Märtshelmer  
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 25 March 1971)



Art appreciation

A publication has been produced in Cologne to aid teachers, visiting museums with school groups, to explain the museum exhibits to young children so that they can learn to appreciate the artistic merit of what they see.

(Photo: Keystone)

## ■ MEDICINE

## Stuttgart doctor claims to have anti-heart attack pill

A Stuttgart doctor claims that potentially heart sufferers need only take a small pill perhaps once or twice a day to be out of all danger and he puts forward impressive figures from his practice as proof.

But why does he not publish his findings in a medical journal? Why does he not allow his successes to be checked according to modern scientific criteria?

In the modern world diseases of the heart and circulation form the most frequent causes of death, taking over the place occupied by plague and cholera in the Middle Ages and the scourge of rickets and tuberculosis at the dawn of the industrial era.

The number of people dying of heart or circulation complaints has doubled in the last thirty years.

But these statistics are deceptive. One factor should be taken into account. As these complaints, like cancer, mainly occur in the higher age groups, the increase in life expectancy has automatically led to an increase of people dying from them.

Despite this fact, it would have been rare thirty or forty years ago for a thirty-year-old to die of a heart attack.

## Successful cornea transplants

Blind people can once again take hope as cornea transplants have proved recently the individual pupil were pulled down to the average standard of the class.

Some illnesses, scar formation after accidents and direct contact with tear gas often cause lasting damage to the cornea, thus impairing sight.

Professor Sautter of Hamburg University Eye Hospital stated that the foreign corneas were only rarely rejected after operations of this kind.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 12 March 1971)

Appearances are deceptive in the field of cosmetics as well. Of course people can discuss the extent to which our social structure is determined by aesthetics but this way of thinking provides little information about the nature of cosmetics.

Perhaps the only mistake to be made at the congress was occasionally to give cosmetics a role which overburdened it. Professor René König, the Cologne sociologist was guilty of this in his talk on cosmetics as a socio-cultural problem.

The Professor drew delegates' attention to a newspaper report on the conditions in a women's prison in Rotterdam. A cosmetics course had been started there to give inmates a certain degree of self-confidence before being released.

The women prisoners are allowed to cream their hands, curl their hair and use decent make-up. The person in charge of the course has said that the women have blossomed as a result.

Can any generally valid definition of cosmetics be drawn from this one case? Professor König limited himself to a statement that again showed no more than a partial aspect of cosmetics.

He stated that about sixty per cent of all women prisoners were disfigured or deformed in some way, a figure about three times as high as the non-criminal average.

Usually twenty per cent of these women would return to prison for a

Doctors today are no longer surprised when this happens to one of their patients.

The increase in heart disease has also led to the search for preventive methods and cures being intensified. This is made more difficult by the fact that these complaints often have more than one cause, unlike infectious diseases.

Even when preventive or curative methods are available, it is not all that simple to treat diseases whose cause or causes are not known or only partially recognised.

That is why nobody is surprised when cures are announced in more or less quick succession, based on more or less plausible theories concerning the origins and curative possibilities of modern diseases, only to disappear again with equal rapidity. Dr Berthold Kern, a Stuttgart internist, claims to have discovered during his near on 25 years of practice that a medication long known and used to cure defects of the heart muscles is also effective when used to prevent heart infarction.

Along with digitalis, the poison obtained from the leaf of fox-gloves, strophanthine, obtained from an African plant and once used to poison arrowheads, is one of the most important heart stimulants.

Up to now it has not been used in a preventive capacity and certainly not to counteract heart attacks as heart infarction is primarily a circulatory failure and not a heart complaint.

The heart only suffers damage in an infarction as its blood supply is blocked. One of the arteries supplying the heart muscle with oxygen and other vital substances is obstructed by a blood clot.

It is at this point that a sector of the previously healthy heart is destroyed, though this may take a matter of minutes or hours. To simplify the issue, it can be said that the heart is starved of the materials it needs.

To explain the effects of his strophan-

thin treatment, Dr Kern had to put forward a completely new theory opposing those currently valid in the world on nearly all counts.

Dr Kern states that heart attacks are not caused by a clot in the coronary artery but by an insufficient blood supply to the inner wall of one of the sides of the heart.

None of the recognised medical textbooks on heart disease remotely suggests that this could be the case. And it can hardly be credited that medical research throughout the world has conspired against Dr Kern and his theory.

Experts describe the proof put forward by Dr Kern for his theory as threadbare and become even more sceptical on hearing his statistics.

Dr Kern claims to have treated seventeen thousand top-risk patients over the past 24 years, that is patients threatened by a heart attack or the repetition of a previous one, and never had a patient dying of infarction.

Even American hospitals with all the statistical methods and personnel at their disposal would find it hard to keep their tabs on 17,000 patients over a period of years.

A doctor or team of doctors who have to work without the superior research facilities of a large hospital and yet come up with such impressive statistics must sound incredible.

It was this inadequacy in the statistics, not to say their unreliability, that probably stopped Dr Kern contributing a report to one of the reputable medical journals or cooperating with Professor Halhuber, the heart specialist.

Professor Halhuber is the head of a heart sanatorium at Hohenried that is well-known even outside the Federal Republic for helping heart patients to recuperate.

He offered to cooperate closely with Dr Kern if he would only state his readiness to carry out his examinations and compile their results according to strict medical criteria.

This cooperation never materialised, leading Dr Kern to complain that the medical profession had treated him like a poor simpleton.

Professor Donnt, the Hamburg cardiologist, now plans to test Dr Kern's results to see what conditions are necessary for an objective study.

Heinrich Brenner  
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 20 March 1971)

## Cannibal experiments give indication of learning patterns

A furor was caused a few years ago by experiments in which flatworms that had been trained in some particular way under laboratory conditions transferred their learning to other, untrained flatworms when fed to them.

Researchers such as McConnell, an American, or Hyden, a Swede, believed that these experiments proved that specific memory content could be transferred with a creature's nerve substance.

Psychologist Kurt Pawlik of Hamburg University now claims that his own tests disprove the results of these earlier controversial experiments.

Pawlik too trained flatworms. These inch-long creatures live in water and contract when irritated by an electric shock. This reaction can also be provoked after a certain training period by stimuli that would not normally cause contraction.

If a light flashes immediately before the electric shock is applied, the creatures gradually learn the significance of this occurrence and contract even if no electric shock follows.

Psychologists at Hamburg have not only trained flatworms to react to flashes of light but have also taught them to find their way through a maze.

Pawlik too fed the trained worms to untrained worms. He found that it was immaterial what tasks the worm used as food had previously learnt. The main thing was that it had been trained.

The flatworms fed with trained worms then showed a clearly better performance than those that had ate only untrained worms.

Pawlik explains why this is. Learning — irrespective of what is learnt — raises the worm's general activation level. If substances is now taken from the trained worm and transferred to other worms, this also means that there is a transfer of the chemical substance that are released when the organism is more active.

This means that the worms thus fed are now in their turn made more active and can be trained more easily and more quickly.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26 March 1971)

## Experts discuss uses and abuses of cosmetics

During the past twelve months Hamburg dermatologist Professor Gustav Hopf, the initiator and president of the Karlsruhe Cosmetics Congress, has succeeded in giving cosmetics a scientific character. The second congress of this type ended on 22 March and showed that opinions on the function of cosmetics still differ wildly.

second sentence but if their disfigurement or other defects were cured by plastic or cosmetic surgery this rate sank to two per cent.

With this reference to the character-forming effects of cosmetics, Professor König had turned to a phenomenon for which the well-known Baale psychoanalyst Heinrich Meng once coined the term organ neurosis.

König wanted to point out that people with physical defects were rejected by people around them and it was this that drove them to abnormal patterns of behaviour.

It is here that cosmetics can prove to be a real preventive measure that is also extremely desirable for rehabilitation. This subject recurred in many of the lectures but the aim of everyday cosmetics was not touched upon at first.

It was only when Professor Clemens de Boor, the Frankfurt psychoanalyst, spoke of the signal function of cosmetics that the word had cropped up that would provoke controversy.

Christa Lüders-Lohde, the Hamburg journalist and cosmetics expert and a driving force behind the Karlsruhe congress, was unwilling to accept this interpretation as it was, she claimed, typically male.

She had obviously not heard the remark Professor de Boor had made to guard against the opposition he expected. The Professor had asked what psychological basis made men refuse to wear eye-shadow and lipstick while they rejoiced in fencing scars, to which a signal function could also be doubtlessly ascribed.

Women, Christa Lüders-Lohde countered, waited primarily to be in harmony with themselves and, putting it concisely, to feel good: "Cosmetics express the need for dignified conformity to the world of civilisation."

Which view is right? Has cosmetics a signal function or is it used irrespective of physical attraction? A partial answer was provided by Professor G. Stüttgen, the Berlin dermatologist, who could not resist

crossing swords with the argumentative Christa Lüders-Lohde once again.

Professor Stüttgen insisted on the signal function of cosmetics and helped the cause of his colleague Professor de Boor with a remark that met with the enthusiastic approval of the audience.

What, he asked, is the position concerning male cosmetics? What opportunity had men had to do something for their "beauty" after years of the Labour Front, national service during the War, internment and the poverty of the immediate post-war period? And had not our women always maliciously smiled whenever they came across a male who used cosmetics of any type?

Stüttgen said that cosmetics largely determined a person's social image today. There could be no doubt about that. Long hair and dirty fingernails were nothing other than a type of anti-cosmetics.

The Professor felt he had to attack women for caring for themselves with cosmetics at the same time as they ruined their skin with excessive sun-bathing.

Professor Hopf agreed. He described sunbath as the most dangerous mode of decoration and drew the unchivalrous thought nonetheless correct conclusion that, unlike the smooth-skinned girls of the past, women today often look like old Red Indian squaws with spots and blemishes caused by too much sunlight.

Alfred Püllmann

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 24 March 1971)



## ■ AGRICULTURE

## Higher farm prices make rich richer, poor poorer

Presumably all farmers in the Federal Republic will be pleased about the rise in European Economic Community prices for agricultural produce even though their demands have only been half met.

In fact only a section of the farming community has grounds for feeling cheerful about the latest developments. These are the diligent farmers who more or less have their holdings in good order, as always, and have been making in good profits.

These profits have now been supplemented by the Council of Ministers in Brussels. This will enable them to continue to build up an adequate capital backing so that they will be able to continue to make essential investments. This in turn will strengthen their competitiveness and they will continue to open up a huge gap between themselves and the less fortunate members of their profession.

But for the rest of the agricultural community the latest developments are a sour note. There are the holdings that are already in financial difficulties because they have run up a burden of debts (probably because of unwise investments), because their work structure is all wrong, because they have put their money on the wrong horse, because they are situated in an inconvenient spot far from their market, because their soil is not sufficiently fertile, because the farmer has fallen ill, because provision has had to be made for elderly employees, inheritance or rents, cutting down the amount of liquid cash available for the running of the farm and for further investment and so bleeding the holding.

One other reason that frequently leads to inefficiency or failure down on the farm is that the farmer is often not a mathematician and makes grave miscalculations, or that he is not a businessman and has little idea of how a going concern is run.

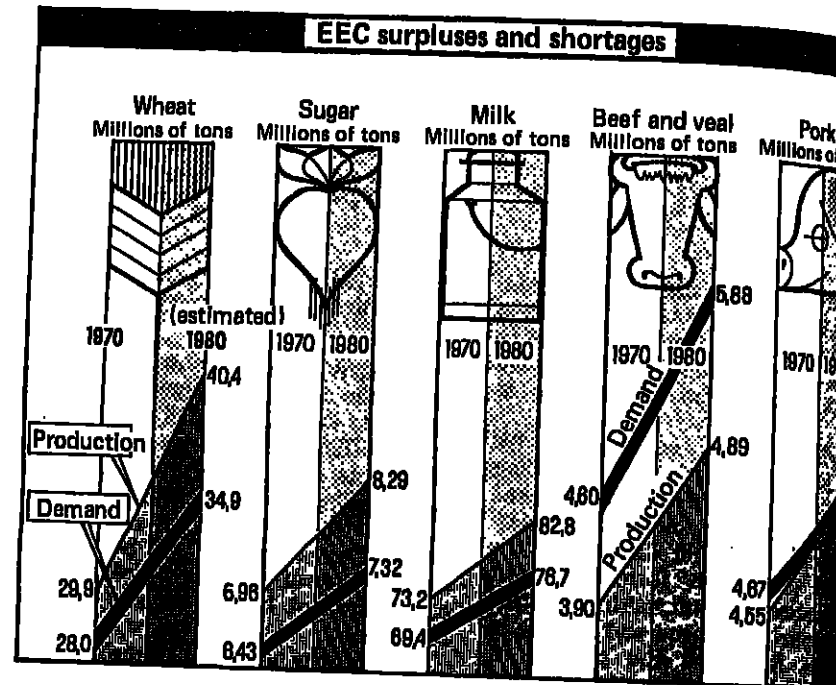
Many of these farmers have to date managed to muddle through. But this fact has unfortunately filled them with false hopes. They thought that because their guardian angels had seen them through in the past they would continue to do so in the future.

But these hopes have been crushed recently as costs have soared and (because of agricultural overproduction) prices for farm produce have tumbled or at best stagnated. Increasing competition within the European Economic Community has begun to make these cracks in the structure visible.

Despair grew when the precariousness of the situation could no longer be hidden behind a veil. Thereafter the farmers attempted to pin the blame for the poor situation on those very factors that had brought the bitter truth home to them, rather than looking for the faults in themselves and in the internal conditions of their farms.

They then let off steam at a series of heated demonstrations. Demands for higher agricultural prices seemed to the demonstrators to be the only way out of the dilemma.

But however understandable this reaction and this demand may be, the price rises that have been ordered from Brussels are doing nothing to improve the internal faults in this branch of the economy and



would not have been doing so even if they had been more generous.

They are sufficient simply to give the farmers time to get their breath because they cover up the troubles, but the danger is that they will give farmers the impression once again that everything is all right and will lure them into a false sense of security.

In reality, however, the "bad" farms are still lagging way behind the "good" ones. The sick establishments are getting sicker and are making themselves more and more susceptible to uncontrollable outside influences such as increasing costs or falling prices.

In this way their precarious position is getting even worse. Those that are not particularly indebted at the moment will find themselves up to their eyes in debt.

Farmers are at present groaning under the weight of interest repayments but tomorrow have collapsed under the burden of debt. Many will have to sell their farms, but even then when they have paid

their debts they will have nothing to live on.

As far as the "bad" farms are concerned higher agricultural prices simply mean that their death, when it comes, will be more painful. The substance of the holding is disappearing from the farm, the possession bit by bit until the milkpail belongs to creditors. In the end the farmer and his family will be homeless.

The less glib farmers will be back and pondered the mystery of the differences in income between farmer and another are far greater between agriculture and other branches of the economy and that these differences are increasing year by year.

Recently increased prices for agricultural produce will only aggravate the differences. The much-scorning economist Hermann Pribe said: "Some mathematics that make no sense."

An increase in agricultural prices would not have been doing so even if they had been more generous.

Continued on page 12

## Communal agricultural prices have strengthened the EEC

in the past were higher than the level of consumption so that they will equal it — that is to say the guaranteed quantities will be lowered.

Some anxiety must be shown about the increase of six per cent in milk prices particularly as this will be brought about partly by increases in the price of butter. Individual Agriculture Ministers also showed concern that this decision might lead to the production of even greater surpluses.

Certainly we are not likely to be faced with any more food mountains. Meantime we have learned how butter can be used in development aid and social welfare programmes, how it can be applied as cooking fat and also in dire necessity how it can be used as feed for calves without great pains although at rather daunting costs.

Perhaps the rigours of milk production (no day off, no holidays — cows having to be looked after 365 days a year) will lead to a natural outback in milk production.

Less problems are involved in the six per cent increase in beef and three per cent increase in veal prices since there is a genuine lack of these meats within the Common Market.

More problems are posed by the situation on the grain market, where the guaranteed price of corn is up by two per cent, barley by four per cent and maize only by one per cent. It is almost certain that processing companies will turn their

attention to maize, and what is more imported maize, and therefore EEC barley will go straight into silos.

For the consumer price increases will be held in check, although no one likes to hear of price increases at all. Nevertheless there is no disputing that producer prices in agriculture have remained stable for years amid general waves of price increases, and in the Federal Republic in fact they are in some cases dropped slightly.

Decisions are, at any rate, only a small part of the programme of decisions taken by the Council of Ministers. What is more important is that despite the keen opposition of the greater number of EEC countries Sicco Mansholt has succeeded in getting his foot in the door that will open out on to a communal agricultural structure and social welfare policy.

Up until now the agricultural policy of the EEC has been fragmentary and has been limited to the organisation of markets. The danger was that nations would find themselves in agreement with the immovability of communal price policies and would grant their farmers equalisation for insufficient prices by means of more intensively planned national structures and above all social welfare policies.

In this manner there would be the threat of distortions in cooperative ability which would finally lead to a softening up in the long run of the communal

agricultural market. The latest do do in fact leave governments a fairly free hand in the sphere of social policies. They do not bring any measures for structural improvement such as the building of roads in rural areas, consolidation of farms or similar measures into the communal policy.

In addition to this the social policy of the Community in financial matters is modest. The Community only pays 25 per cent of costs; the rest must be drummed up by the individual States.

For what is probably the most effective measure, paying pensions of 2,200 Marks for 55 to 65 year olds are giving up their jobs in agriculture, areas that are weak structurally nations will receive 64 per cent of expenditure from Community funds.

In practice this measure will benefit southern Italy. These people will, however, only be paid up to 65, that is to say until social security takes over, although it must be noted that in Italy this is something which is to be a large extent built up in the agricultural sector.

This state of affairs shows that when people in the capitals could not agricultural policies are a matter of national concern are gone. Here the ordination of overall economic policy the Six is made easier. Irrational structures are the greatest stumbling block for communal action. Since the agricultural structure policy strengthened communal solidarity in the financial sphere as well — Europe can see in the decision taken by the Council of Ministers a major success for their efforts.

Thomas Löffelholz  
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 27 March 1971)

## THE ECONOMY

## Helping the consumer spend wisely is a complicated business

The first task carried out by this organisation was to penetrate into the Chancellery where the consumer representatives sought a discussion with Willy Brandt.

One curiosity that has cropped up: At the consumer headquarters in the Federal states as well as in the liaison office those associations that are already members of the AGV are represented to a certain extent.

The Economic Affairs Ministry in Bonn is aiming at cooperation between the new liaison office and the AGV, but government representative Gerhard Rambow is of the opinion that the associations must work this out among themselves at the outset.

Cooperation between the consumer headquarters, whose main job is to give advice, and the AGV, which emphasises consumer policies, suggests itself. State Secretary Philip Rosenthal of the Economic Affairs Ministry confessed to the AGV: "Bonn considers the work of the AGV highly effective."

The AGV with its nineteen member associations has indirectly over eight million members. The member groups range from the Central Associations of Air-Crash Victims, and the Knapp Federation to numerous women's associations and the Expellees' Association.

AGV funds are low. Their budget is in the region of 700,000 Marks. Only three per cent of this comes from members' contributions. Bonn pays 430,000 Marks and the remainder comes from sales of AGV consumer publications.

The aim of the AGV, apart from giving advice and information, is to represent political interests of consumers to the government, the Bundestag and industry.

Munich was the scene of an "action for critical buying", the first campaign waged in this country against an increasing desire to spend. Radical activists, in the shadow of this campaign, threatened to destroy large stores with bombs.

Other major cities are seeing a similar campaign with critical young people, who are not prepared to fall for sales promotions, attacking the fatal tendency for people to get on the bandwagon of spend, spend, spend!

Young Socialists in the SPD are tending to increasingly criticise the terror of the consumer society and attack advertising, which "is continually creating new requirements".

Even Johannes M. Jaschicke, spokesman for the committee of the "working group of consumer associations", who cannot be suspected of harbouring leftist opinions, complains quite openly: "In the face of the twenty milliard budget of the economy we consumers are powerless."

The fact that this country's consumers are in such a weak position comes from their complete lack of organisation. Working people band together to get improvements in pay, but to get consumers — basically the same people — baffled on the question of how the extra money should be spent is well-nigh impossible.

Har Jaschicke said: "When it comes to wages every Pfennig is taken into account, but as far as spending is concerned this careful attitude disappears."

Up until now the government and political parties have done nothing much to organise consumers effectively. Bonn does finance a number of associations claiming to represent the interests of the consumer, but the money donated by Bonn is limited and is spread out over a wide area.

While the government spends 57 million Marks on advertising in favour of the country's agriculture it considers the interests of the consumer worth a mere ten million.

And this money is given to twenty different organisations, the most important of which are:

- Die Arbeitsgemeinschaft Hauswirtschaft (Household Budgeting) in Bonn which receives 73,000 Marks.
- Five women's associations (299,000 Marks)
- The eleven consumer offices in the Federal states (1,569,000 Marks)
- Stiftung Warentest in Berlin with its magazine Test with a circulation of 20,000 (4.5 million Marks)

The working group of consumer associations (AGV) which receives 430,000 Marks.

Other associations with a little importance as, for example, "the Society of Female White-Collar Workers".

Further splintering of consumer associations has been brought about by the eleven Federal state offices which recently founded a nation-wide consumer office in Bonn. The point of this is to coordinate advice to consumers in the Federal states.

Despite its relatively low budget the AGV is not powerless. Recently resale price maintenance of Asbach-Uralt brandy came under the scrutiny of the monopolies commission, thanks to the AGV.

In other spheres too the AGV has been able to boast of successes. Experts from the AGV helped to bring about quality markings on textiles, which give the purchaser far more idea of how good the material he is buying really is.

They have also worked on the jungle of confusion surrounding tinned foods. Nowadays housewives have a far better idea of what they will find inside when they open a can, and price controls of tinned foods have been introduced.

The AGV also organised a lobby on the reform of legislation pertaining to the sale of foodstuffs. The former business manager of the AGV, Helga Merkel, helped Health Minister Käthe Strobel wield the reform pen.

A former Ministry of Food worker Hugo Schul is also working on consumer protection in Bonn. He operates a one-man bureau, Der deutsche Verbraucher-bund, with 50,000 individual members. Herr Schul calls himself the only representative of the consumer who works entirely independently of government funds. He publishes the magazine, Der Wecker (Alarm Clock) which attempts to get people in this country to wake up from their dreamy attitude to buying.

He has attacked the government and the Bundestag and started proceedings against firms, which his members feel are guilty of exploitation. He has uncovered price manipulations in major firms and generally sets the cat among the pigeons!

His clients pay six Marks per year for membership and receive in return legal backing and a 500-Mark grant if they take legal proceedings. His success really hangs on another line of business. He offers his members cheap flights to America.

Hugo Schul knows what other consumer associations are having to learn: "Everyone who pays the six-Mark subscription is out to ensure he gets at least ten Marks value from it!"

There have not yet been any spectacular breakthroughs for the consumer in this country to compare with those achieved by Ralph Nader, the pioneer of consumer protection in the United States. Nader succeeded in forcing the three major manufacturers of detergents to refrain from using harmful ingredients in their products. It is difficult to imagine anything of this kind in the Federal Republic.

Gerhard Rambow said: "It is hard to imagine the likes of Ralph Nader in this country at the moment."

## Consumers hardly represented at Common Market level

In fact consumers here must be worried that their position will weaken. Proof of this comes from the textile markings legislation. This legislation which favours the consumer has not been put into operation yet, since a unified measure for all EEC countries is being drawn up in Brussels.

As far as Brussels is concerned the European consumer associations are scarcely represented at all and, according to Johannes M. Jaschicke, "our influence there is nil."

There is a fear that in the future people buying textiles in Europe will have no idea what their money is going on. Brussels is planning to introduce twenty different markings which will completely bamboozle the consumer.

The Economic Affairs Ministry is considering various consumer protection measures such as a "consumer ombudsman".

Wolfgang Hoffmann  
(DIE ZEIT, 26 March 1971)

## Facts and figures in the building trade

Theoretically the mathematics is quite easy. At present there are 21 million dwellings in the Federal Republic and 22.3 million families clamouring for them. With increased home building programmes at least 520,000 new houses and homes will be completed each year. This would mean that the housing problem will be over by the summer of 1973.

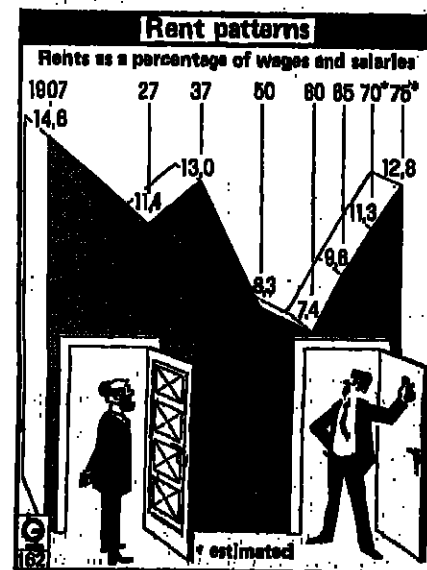
But no. The calculations are not this simple. There are 150,000 families still existing in nissen huts, barrack accommodation and similar emergency dwellings.

Three hundred and fifty thousand families are forced to live in a single room without a kitchen. There are still 200,000 families in sub-tenancy.

The mathematics become even more complicated the closer the situation is studied. About one million dwellings are not up to present-day standards or need to be evacuated because of other building programmes such as new roads.

Many of these are superannuated and ripe for demolition. Others need drastic renovations. Others, all right in themselves, have to be demolished because they are in a slum clearance zone.

When the slums are cleared the ground on which they were built will be used for building new accommodation with better transport facilities, underground garages for cars and piped central heating. They will be surrounded by lawns.



Styles of living for the 61 million people in the Federal Republic are changing daily. More and more young people are taking longer to qualify for their chosen profession and during their study or apprenticeship periods want to escape from Mum's apron strings. This means that without the population increasing the need for new accommodation rises, particularly the need for small flats.

In addition to this the move from rural areas to towns has to be taken into

consideration. There are plans afoot to counter this with regional development programmes encouraging companies to set up shop in less densely populated areas. These companies have a ready labour force of former farm workers.

There are already two million foreign workers in the Federal Republic and many plan to remain in this country for a lengthy period. Families are coming to join the workers.

There is every indication that the building trade will have full order books for quite some time. The problem of costs and prices in the industry remains, although this is not directly connected with the demand for accommodation.

In conjunction with the Federal states Bonn provides 250,000 houses under the social welfare housing scheme every year. Projects for young families, old folks with low incomes and large families are top priority in this programme. By 1975 Bonn will be providing more than two milliard Marks for the housing programme.

Of the 65,000 firms in the Federal Republic building trade 19,000 employ fewer than five workers. Forty per cent of building prices today is accounted for in wage bills. The overall average for the economy is only 23 per cent. Smaller firms must cooperate. Only then will they be able to afford expensive machinery which will quickly cut their wage bills.

Comparative studies have shown that industrial prefabrication carried out by highly mechanised firms can make a project 16 per cent cheaper than if it is carried out along conventional lines by one of the small companies.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 24 March 1971)



## ■ AUTOMOBILES

## Steel still superior to synthetics, Volkswagen director maintains

Frankfurter Allgemeine

To judge by a lecture delivered at the thirteenth plastics conference in Mainz by Professor Werner Holste, head of research and development at Volkswagen, it is doubtful whether plastics will bring about fundamental changes in the motor car in the near future.

Dr Holste concedes that synthetics have an important part to play in the extremely varied and up-to-the-minute field of materials applications in the motor industry but feels that the future holds more in store for synthetics in sectors other than the motor trade.

He prefers to use the term materials rather than synthetics in respect of his own field of operations, and when it is borne in mind that between them the engine and chassis, both of which are mainly metal, account for some 56 per cent of the overall weight of a car the limits on the use of synthetics are evident.

Synthetics play a subordinate role in the propulsion and chassis units. They are of greater importance in the electrical and instrumental system but even in these spheres their use is not characteristic of the motor car.

The proportion of a car in terms of overall weight that is made up of synthetic materials is still small, amounting to a mere four to six per cent. Over the forthcoming decade Dr Holste expects this amount to increase to no more than ten per cent, from 35 to forty kilograms at present to a maximum of eighty.

The introduction of various materials, including synthetics, will represent a continuous development from the existing situation with a view to economy and reliability in operation and economy of manufacture, long-term cost developments deciding which of competing materials is to be used.

Extra-strong materials in the form of fibre-toughened compounds of various kinds will also have a major role to play in the future of motor vehicle construction.

Hair crystals - whiskers - have the reputation of being something out of the ordinary, and no doubt rightly so in respect of price, flexibility and durability.

In view of the price, though, efforts will obviously first be made to meet requirements with the aid of synthetic compounds toughened by glass, borium or carbon fibre, all highly developed but greater in diameter and less tough than whiskers.

The future may well belong to polycrystalline whiskers, though. In addition to their other properties they are sufficiently heat-resistant to be embedded in the metal matrix.

It could, in the foreseeable future, prove possible to incorporate appropriate whiskers into lightweight metals such as magnesium or aluminium so as to improve the properties, particularly the heat-resistance, of these major materials.

Such use as is made of plastics in car bodywork at present is conspicuous enough. Nowadays roughly three quarters of the visible interior is coated with PVC, which has for the most part taken over from fabric, felt, rubber and glass.

The difficulties encountered in the manufacture of plastic car bodies have yet to be satisfactorily solved, though. All-steel bodies so far remain superior.

A number of manufacturers, Mercedes with the C 111, Porsche with the 917 and Matra with the M 530, for instance, may market uncommon models with synthetic car bodies but there has yet to be a long run.

The corrosion-proneness of car-body steel unfortunately remains a problem, which is no doubt why a great deal of development work is being put into synthetics to replace it.

At the moment, however, there is no getting away from the fact that there are limits to the physical properties of plastics. What is more, the safety car towards which we are legislating will call for a maximum in passenger protection.

In the event of a crash or collision the brunt of the impact will have to be borne by the car body, which will have to fulfil entirely new requirements in toughness, absorption of impact energy and deformation properties.



## Quick road-building

Equipment to speed up autobahn construction has been designed in the Republic. By this method a stretch of 3.5 kilometres can be completed within working hours. The equipment has the tradename 'Wibau' and can lay lanes metres wide in total.

(Photo: MZ)

All-steel bodies and they alone, Dr Holste stresses, so far seem likely to be able to meet the requirements that are looming on the horizon.

Car designers and materials manufacturers will have to put their heads together and spend even more time on the development of suitable energy-absorptive materials and structures that give satisfactory results even when the process of deformation takes only split seconds.

Viewed from the angle of society and the law the car of the near future will definitely tend to contribute towards increased safety and environmental protection.

In respect of environmental protection the atmospheric pollution caused by car exhausts is the main offender. The clean exhaust regulations will make additional engine units necessary. These will require, to a far greater extent than their predecessors, higher-quality materials, particularly high-alloy steels, and introduce new materials into car production.

Cars that conform with stricter specifications will, of course, cost more.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 31 March 1971)

## Higher farm-produce prices

For years agriculture prices policies in this country have been to the benefit of the richer farmer.

To Herr Priebe's comment we must add: the European Economic Community has done nothing but aggravate this situation.

Higher prices for agricultural produce will not only give a boost to the more well-to-do farmer in the Federal Republic, but also to our rivals in the other Common Market countries, who are far less affected by the question of prices for their produce than their colleagues in this country.

And despite all arguments to the contrary the problem of surpluses is a growing one. Stockpiles are still being built up and along with them come diminishing hopes that prices will rise naturally and of their own accord.

Furthermore farmers have cut their own throats in one respect: they asked for higher prices for cattle feed. Having

got them they have immediately pushed up their costs! They can hardly pass on these expenses in the form of higher prices as is the case with egg production, poultry and fattening pigs.

Brussels has made a mistake in its decision to grant farmers higher prices.

Farmers, and particularly farmers in this country, will get little benefit from higher prices. The damage that has been done cannot be made good by the decision to embark on a communal structural policy (which is in reality far more like an EEC finance adjustment in favour of Italy).

All assurances and ideas to the contrary are a deliberate veiling of the facts; it is just like sweeping the dirt under the carpet, glossing over the faults, practising self-deception or simply a failure to pay any regard to the facts.

Klaus Peter Krause  
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 29 March 1971)

## ENVIRONMENT

## Mannheim proposes plan to warn of smog menace

The smog danger is steadily increasing, making it imperative that protection be given to people living in densely-populated industrial areas.

Now that North Rhine-Westphalia has made a start with inspection and precautionary procedures in the Ruhr the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has decided to draft a smog alarm plan for the Mannheim industrial region.

The Mannheim area is particularly smog-prone because of both its geographical location and the number of major chemicals manufacturers based in the region.

Areas geographically shielded from powerful gusts of wind are particularly smog-prone when a layer of cold air at and above ground-level is covered by a layer of warm air.

The normal exchange of air does not occur and air polluted by industry, motor vehicles and other consumers is not replaced by clean air from elsewhere. When this situation arises Mankind runs a serious risk of choking in its own dirt and atmospheric garbage.

Sulphur dioxide is the crucial health hazard. It is poisonous and combines with the damp in the air to form a sulphurous acid that eats away even stone and masonry, as the sorry state many ancient monuments are now in amply proves.

Three factors combine to make the Mannheim and Ludwigshafen region a potential killer. They are the geographical rough position, which often results in

calm weather, the large number of chemicals manufacturers and the road traffic of two cities.

Two thousand balloons laden with measuring equipment have been launched to counteract the danger. They hover in position for the purpose of collecting and relaying data indicating the risk of smog faster and in greater detail than the meteorological office can at present.

As soon as a potentially dangerous combination of factors arises the alarm plan is carried out in stages determined by the concentration of sulphur dioxide in the air.

Stage One presupposes that wind speed is less than one metre per second and the concentration of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere has reached the borderline level of 0.2 milligrammes per cubic metre.

This stage may not represent a serious health hazard for the general public but a

## Clean exhaust catalyst

Deussa have developed a catalyst that prepares unburnt hydrocarbons, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide in car exhaust fumes for virtually complete combustion. It is impervious to the lead contained in petrol.

Cars equipped with the catalyst would meet the clean exhaust specifications that are expected shortly to be made mandatory in this country.

(DIE WELT, 31 March 1971)

number of factories will already be instructed to stagger the times at which they carry out certain work processes involving considerable atmospheric pollution.

At Stage Two the level of sulphur dioxide has already reached a dangerous point. Industrial concerns, particularly refineries and power stations, will be ordered to use fuels low in sulphur content and to cease all operations likely to produce large amounts of harmful exhaust fumes.

The major purpose of the whole exercise is to stop Stage Three from being reached. If the smog alarm plan proves genuinely efficient it ought never to occur. Stage Three presupposes a concentration of 1.5 milligrammes of sulphur dioxide per cubic metre of air.

With pollution at this level the health risk for the general public is serious, indeed acute. In this eventuality it is proposed to take vigorous action, closing down all factories and even temporarily banning private traffic in town.

Car exhaust fumes are such an important factor in atmospheric pollution that a temporary ban on the use of private cars is one of the fastest means of alleviating the situation.

The various stages of the plan and the measures involved do not require fresh legislation. Industrial regulations provide factory inspectors with ample powers to impose restrictions and bans of this kind, and the police also have the power to ban all traffic in a limited area and for a limited period of time in order to avert critical situations.

The only possibility of trouble in the Mannheim and Ludwigshafen region is that the border between Baden-Württemberg and the Rhineland-Palatinate runs right through the middle of it.

Manfred Bornschein

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 20 March 1971)

## Rare drivers

Fifty-nine per cent of motorists in this country can look back on traffic offences of one kind or another. Twenty-two per cent have only one previous conviction, 23 per cent two or three and fourteen per cent more than three past offences on record, according to an Allensbach opinion poll.

Forty-seven per cent of adults over the age of sixteen, including West Berliners, have driving-licences. Sixty-eight per cent of the male population are licence-holders while only 28 per cent of women have taken their driving-test.

Thirty-one per cent of the population reckon to be at the wheel every day or at least every other day. Nine per cent drive at least once a week, two per cent once a month and a further two per cent only once a year. These figures apply to private cars. (DIE WELT, 13 March 1971)

## Animal crossings

In the 300,000 or so road accidents a year involving wild animals some thirty people die and about 2,000 are injured. The damage to property involved amounts to roughly fifty million Marks.

Four accidents in five occur where there are no road signs giving advance warning of the possibility. Two out of three occur in May, October and November, the rutting season, according to ADAC, the country's major motoring organisation.

The most dangerous time of day is dusk, between six and nine in the evening, when one accident in three occurs. Every year 300,000 animals are killed, including about 60,000 deer and 120,000 hares.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 31 March 1971)

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## TOURISM

## Wiesbaden's spa facilities are equal to none

It is well known that the success of spa treatment at a modern curative bath depends on many factors taken together. First and foremost there is the healing effect of the mineral and thermal springs at the spa and other therapies, the experience of the doctors attached to the spa and expert care in sanatoria, hotels and boarding houses.

But also the entire framework in which such a course of treatment takes place is of great importance. The choosy spa visitor is by no means content with being diagnosed by a specialist, treated in up-to-date conditions and given accommodation in a hotel obeying all the requirements of spa treatment. He also wants to use his free-time during the course of the treatment to fulfill all the ambitions for which he has not time normally.

Of course there are widely differing requirements among different spa visitors. Age, educational background and profession, but also general interests, state of health and by no means least, the amount of money available decide what the spa visitor will do with his leisure time.

It is interesting to note that tastes and expectations with regard to leisure-time pursuits during spa treatment have changed in the last twenty years.

The trend in the first years after the war was clearly towards getting away from it all in the country, going back to nature, looking for solitude and rest at any price. Nowadays there seems to be a preference again for those spas that offer cultural and social facilities.

After all it seems logical that when the standard of living is rising generally demands are likely to come about correspondingly for time spent at a spa. In this respect it is of no concern, from the point of view of the spa, whether wishes of this kind come from a real need, come as the result of seeing a chance to do things or for whatever motives.

Kur in Wiesbaden — no matter at what time of year — leaves the patient plenty of leisure and pleasure time. The spa at Wiesbaden is particularly beneficial for various kinds of rheumatic illness. In treating these illnesses the morning hours are generally speaking sufficient to get through the consultations with doctors, diagnostic measures, thermal bathing, gymnastic treatment, massages, mud treatment or Kneipp treatment. And in Wiesbaden it is a great benefit to patients if they can keep their afternoons free.

This former international spa centre has today as always a unique flair. Visually speaking it stands out thanks to the classically generous architecture of the Kurhaus with its colonnades and the bowling green in front.

There is the elegant Wilhelmstrasse with its famous hotels and cafes, shops, the latest fashions, jewellery of the most expensive kind and extremely valuable objets d'art.

The cultural and social programme of the city is equally exquisite. Performances of the Hesse Staatstheater alternate with concerts by internationally famous orchestras with splendid social occasions and light entertainment in the Kurhaus and the Rhein-Main-Halle.

In addition to all this Wiesbaden has much to offer in the summer season including opportunities for many sports. There are two golf courses, two tennis clubs, several swimming baths and the beautifully sited Opelbad on the Neroberg.

For those who like to go on excursions there are a number of possibilities, including coach trips to the nearby Taunus

range, boat trips on the Rhine and excursions to nearby places of artistic interest.

Wiesbaden's atmosphere is certainly coloured by the fact that it is just a few minutes by car from the Rhine. There are vineyards in the neighbourhood of the city and world famous wines are produced right on the doorstep.

This advantage presumably has instilled itself in the people of the city who are by nature friendly and have always been hospitable to guests from all over the world.

In this respect it should be noted that Wiesbaden is a state capital, a congress city and a spa at the same time. It is in fact not a *Großstadt* but rather a *grosse Stadt* with a great deal of charm in the area of the hot waters and a verve which appeals to all visitors to the spa.

Anyone with artistic tendencies has a broad scope in Wiesbaden. The Hesse Staatstheater has three theatres offering opera, operetta, plays and studio productions and, for example, during the annual May festival offers a programme of international standards.

Guest productions are staged by prominent companies and artists from Europe, including many Eastern European companies, from New York as well as Moscow and Tokyo.

For devotees of serious music the Kurhaus offers about forty symphony concerts and concerts of chamber music each year with soloists of international standing as well as the daily spa concerts.

Painting and drawing are also at home in Wiesbaden. Ancient and modern are to be seen at the *Südtisches Museum* with its magnificent collection of paintings by the great Russian artist Yavlensky who lived in Wiesbaden and is buried at the Russian cemetery near the Greek Chapel with its gilded cupolas.

Paintings by contemporary artists are on show at this museum and in galleries that are well known beyond the Federal state limits, not to mention special exhibitions.

Antique dealers of Wiesbaden have a particularly good reputation. Rare and unusual pieces are often to be found and connoisseurs of these objects come to Wiesbaden to do their shopping in the *Taunusstrasse*.

Even for those who can do no more than window-shop the interesting antiques in the *Taunusstrasse* make a stroll worthwhile.

All in all — what with theatre, concerts, painting and other artistic attractions — there is a multitude of things to keep the spa visitor occupied throughout his treatment.

Wiesbaden is also a city of fashion and, what is more, for both sexes. Wilhelmstrasse is famous for fashion and is known as the *me* of Wiesbaden with its exquisite fashion shops. But on *Wilhelmstrasse* fashions are not only to be seen in shop

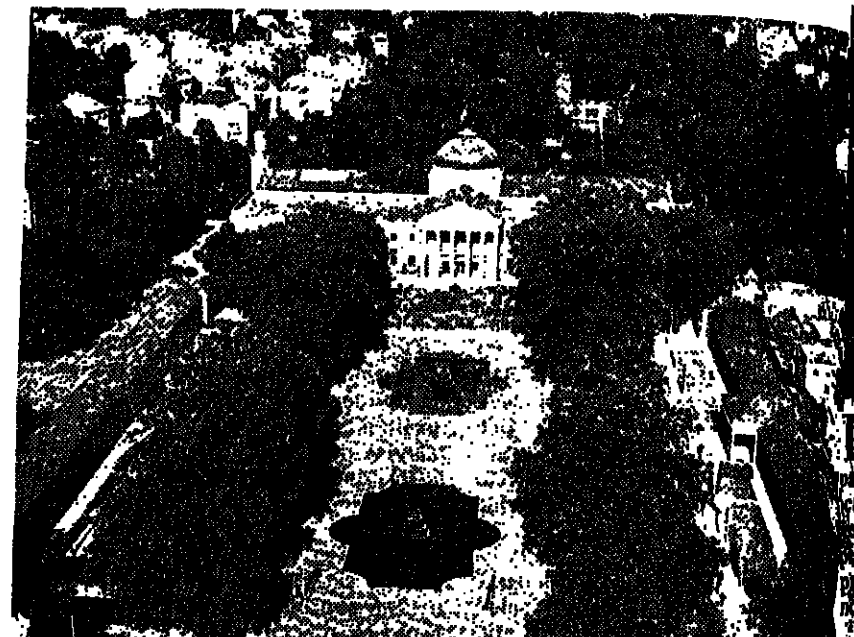
showed that for the first time tourism from Yugoslavia made its mark with 35,000 visitors from there.

Bavaria is the most popular part of the country for visitors staying overnight, with almost four million overnight stays recorded. Baden-Württemberg came second with nearly three million.

As far as 1971 is concerned the executive chairman of the Federal Republic Central Office of Tourism, Günther Spazier, is mildly optimistic.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 March 1971)

## Holidays at home



The spa complex in Wiesbaden

windows. As soon as the spring sunshine warms the streets and up until autumn takes on a winter chill the famous cafes in the *Wilhelmstrasse* serve their customers *au frais*.

On *Wilhelmstrasse* fashions of every kind are to be seen on wearers of every age and sometimes there is no denying a degree of boldness.

Unmistakably film and television companies have made their mark on Wiesbaden and are established there and help to contribute to the fashion aspect of the city.

The same influence is obvious during pauses at the *Staatstheater*, between works at the *Kurhaus* concert, at the Casino or during a break at an evening of light entertainment in the *Rhein-Main-Halle*.

For many reasons Wiesbaden was only able to rebuild its spa relatively late after the War. For a time this seemed to be a disregard for the priorities but today the delay seems to have been an advantage since Wiesbaden was able to take into consideration newly introduced changes in treatment following the War which other spas in this country have had to incorporate but which was, so to speak, built in to Wiesbaden's spa from the beginning.

Work is in progress on a modern rehabilitation centre for the treatment of rheumatic complaints in the quietly set Aukammal near the diagnostic clinic, the first Federal Republic Mayo Clinic. There is already a clinic for rheumatic illnesses and the Kaiser Friedrich baths for modern therapeutic treatment and there are further plans for an extensive thermal swimming bath as well as a further clinical spa and sanatorium.

With the already-built spa hotel and a sanatorium enterprise Wiesbaden is already an up-to-date centre for treating rheumatism. In addition to this it has the advantage that the patient can arrange his leisure time pursuits to his own tastes and by enjoying himself and improving himself he can add greatly to the success of the spa treatment.

(Handelsblatt, 18 March 1971)

## SPORT

## Nation-wide keep fit campaign gains momentum

runner and now a sitter. Problems are inevitable.

According to Rudolf Hagelstange progress is a sedentary business and doctors say that while sitting down Man's oxygen intake is negligible — a mere 250 cubic centimetres, as opposed to 750 to 1,000 while walking and 4,000 or so on a long-distance run.

Small wonder that tall heavyweights can have 200- to 250-gramme children's hearts that have the greatest difficulty in keeping the circulation going.

The upshot is that 250,000 people a year fall foul of heart attacks, either for good or for some time, in this country alone. "Seventy-five thousand people die of heart attacks every year," Jürgen Palm says.

In the United States the figure is as high as half a million.

Lack of movement is noticeable even among children. One in two of 9.8 million children of school age suffered from a chronic disturbance on first going to school.

Out of every thousand hospital patients in the country 536 suffer from complaints in which lack of movement is a major contributory factor.

Professor Lemmerowicz of Berlin thus reckons that the resulting cost to society is roughly 10,000 million Marks a year. If anything, he feels this figure is on the low rather than the high side.

The DSB slogan for the keep fit games is accordingly "Millions of hearts beat longer — billions of Marks are saved."

One striking point noted in this is that the French have far different ideas on what they like here than the Belgians are attracted by our country from the best and most successful team managers in the world. Half-Viennese with the booming voice of an RSM, he is now and away at the top of the list.

Alfred Neubauer, an incomparable old-timer, a genius and contradiction in terms, will probably never be equalled.

For thirty years he was part and parcel of the racing scene, a voluble charmer, an emotion-laden personality who calculated coolly and organised to a tee, a *faisla* (to the royal palaces). These received five votes.

The third favourite attraction among foreign tourists is "Bavaria, the Alps and the Black Forest". These received 11 votes.

Then followed three cities, Wiesbaden with 48 votes, Berlin with 43 and Hamburg with 34. The *Romantischer Strasse* and the North Sea Islands received 31 and 26 votes respectively. Field of is astonishingly far behind with only five votes.

Neubauer went through good and hard times with his Silver Arrows and was a friend to all race-drivers. In return they respected him as one of the true greats.

The tale he most likes to tell among the many he has to choose from is the one of how he managed to persuade world champion Juan Fangio of Argentina to drive for Mercedes even though Fangio was a convinced Maserati man because of

whereas the Belgians and Dutch like Eifel and the Mosel and Ahr scenery.

The Danes have a preference for Harz while the French like the Rhine, the Black Forest and Lake Constance. Americans, Canadians and South Sea Islanders are attracted by Berlin.

All other countries claim to be attracted by Munich or Hamburg. Number two on the American list of cities is Heidelberg. Baden-Baden and Bayreuth were favoured by the French. But the big cities were by Liechtenstein is also very much in favour of the Federal Republic's cities.

(CHRIST UND WELT, 19 March 1971)

## Alfred Neubauer of Silver Arrow fame is eighty



what he considered to be the Silver Arrows' lack of safety.

Neubauer went for Fangio all out, having the advantage of knowing the champion's every human failing. Fangio did not too badly by the change, going on to win a further two world championships with Neubauer and Mercedes.

In Neubauer's view the greatest driver of them all was Rudolf Caracciola, who raced for thirty years. "He could do everything, driving as fast in a grand prix as in an endurance race or a mountain tour."

"When you think that Caracciola still holds the world's record of 437 kilometres per hour (roughly 275 mph) on a normal road and know, as I do, that in his five best seasons, between 1934 and 1939, he drove virtually without a hiccup following a serious crash in 1934, you realise that his achievement is unequalled."

Nowadays Neubauer would not like to be a team manager. "Races used to be more exciting, longer and were decided in the pits. Tyre changes and refuelling were a matter of seconds. These days they just drive. Racing nowadays is just a sensational show."

Neubauer now only watches races on TV in his house on the banks of the Neckar. "You have to stop sometime," he says, having retired — and Mercedes with him — in 1956.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 29 March 1971)



Rhineland-Palatinate Sports League have converted this coach into a mobile training centre to tour the state for the next three years advertising the keep fit campaign. (Photo: dpa)

International medical research is in the process of waging war against lack of movement every bit as much as against the cancer cause. London bus drivers, it has been discovered, have eight times as many heart attacks as their conductors on the red double-deckers.

According to Professor Badley a sample of 100,000 cases reveals that 57 times as many managers, judges, solicitors and doctors die before their time than do building labourers, miners and farmers.

Finnish long-distance skiers, Professor Karvonen has discovered, live an average seven years longer than their inactive fellow-countrymen.

At present roughly thirteen per cent of the general public belong to sports clubs

affiliated to the DSB and even though total membership is approximately ten million there is still a great deal of virgin territory to explore.

There are still 1,000 communities with populations exceeded 800 that have no gymnastics or sports club of any kind and the number of even smaller villages without anything of the kind is even larger.

Where there are sports clubs they often concentrate exclusively on one discipline. Many clubs provide no facilities whatsoever for women.

These are only a few of the reasons why Trimmy is plugging a gap in the market with the aim of simply and cheerfully getting the general public on the move.

Trimmy's opposite numbers and allied campaigns in Europe are "trim" in Norway and Sweden, "bliv jong — Resest jeune" in Belgium, "contamos contigo" in Spain, "kuntourneilli" in Finland, "Peter Fit" in Austria and physical recreation in Britain.

The football test will start the ball rolling in Frankfurt on 2 May. On all spare pitches available local fans and visitors to Eintracht Frankfurt's Federal league fixture can try their hand at negotiating the ball along a 2 x 25-metre slalom course, at taking penalty kicks at a goal 1.50 metres wide, at taking long shots with a run-up, at target-shooting, long throw-ins, headers and juggling with the ball.

Competitions of this kind for members of the general public in gymnastics, hiking, long-distance skiing, cycling, swimming, skittles and dancing, to name but a few, ought to take place every weekend and be open to all comers, regardless whether or not they are members of a sports club.

Entrance fees ought not to be more than three Marks for juveniles and five Marks for adults and clubs, associations, schools and the Bundeswehr ought to be allowed to organise keep fit games provided they run them according to DSB rules.

Standards demanded should be such that a good 95 per cent of competitors can exceed the minimum required.

Herbert Neumann  
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 26 March 1971)

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